Los Angeles Times

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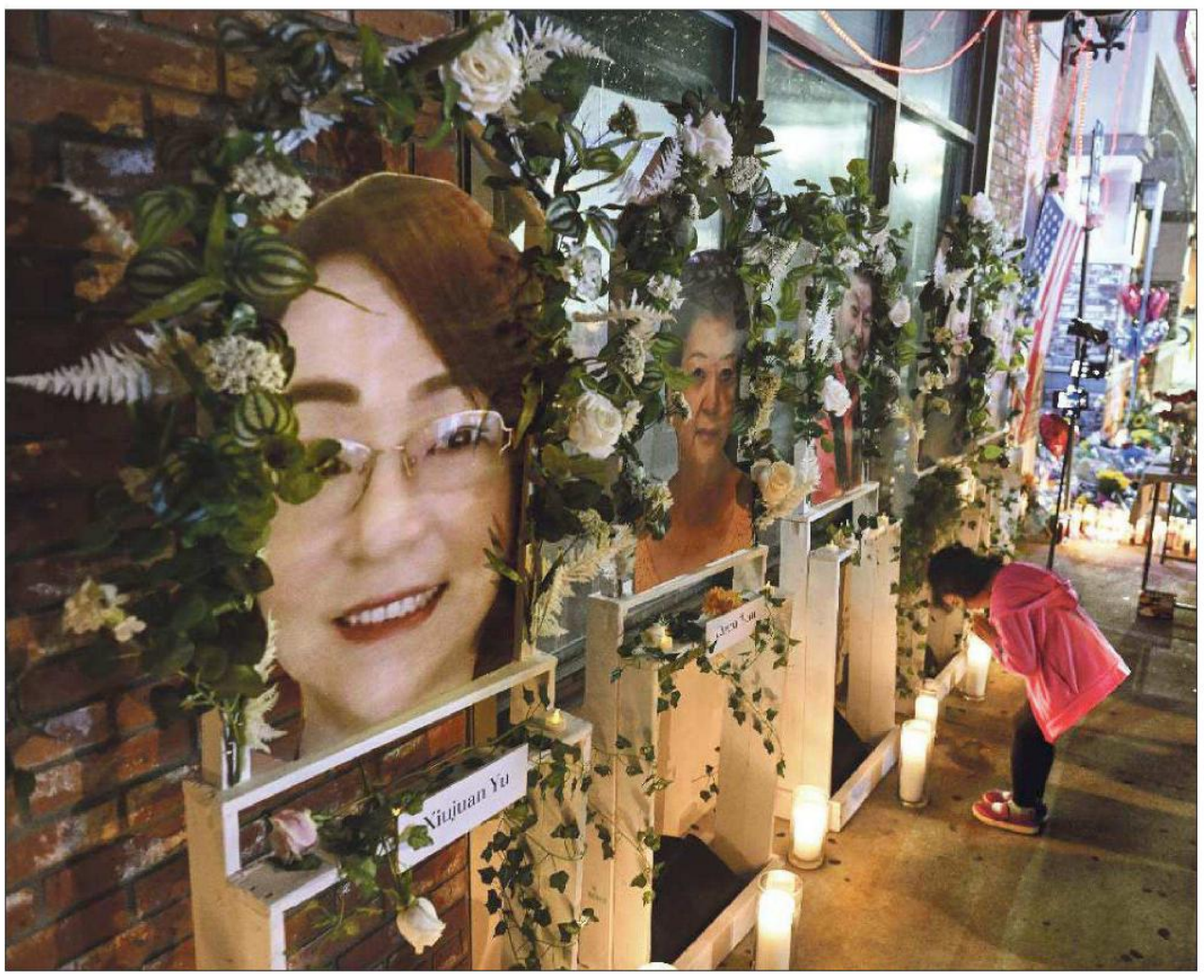


WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

A GIRL BOWS before portraits of Monterey Park shooting victims. One expert said the gunman's motives can be hard to pin down when he's dead and hasn't left a paper or electronic trail detailing his thoughts.

Man accused in Half Moon Bay rampage faces 7 murder counts

Prosecutors could seek death penalty against suspect in workplace shootings.

BY TERRY CASTLEMAN, ALEXANDRA E. PETRI, SALVADOR HERNANDEZ AND LUKE MONEY

HALF MOON BAY, Calif. — The man accused of killing seven people in a shooting rampage at a farm and nursery in Half Moon Bay — unleashing waves of terror, shock and grief in this rural coastal community — faces felony charges that could make him subject to the death penalty, authorities said.

San Mateo County Dist. Atty. Stephen Wagstaffe said Wednesday that his office had yet to determine whether to seek capital punishment against the alleged gunman.

That decision "is something that will take place over the course of the next many, many months," he said during a news conference.

Chunli Zhao, 66, is accused of fatally shooting seven people and wounding another Monday in what authorities have characterized as a case of workplace violence. He was "a co-worker or former co-worker of the victims at each shooting site," the San Mateo County Sheriff's Office said.

Law enforcement officials allege the shooting took place after Zhao "snapped" because of a still-unknown grievance.

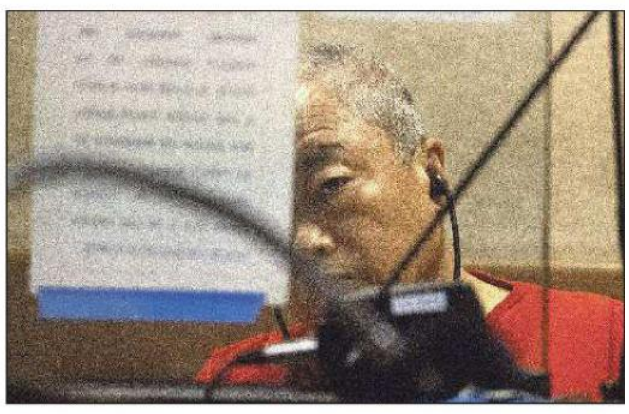
He has been charged with seven counts of murder, one count of attempted murder, firearm use enhancements for each count, and a special circumstance allegation of multiple murder, according to court records. Zhao did not enter a plea when he appeared in court Wednesday.

He is being held without bail. An arraignment date is set for Feb. 16.

Should prosecutors decide not to seek the death penalty, Zhao could face a sentence of life in prison without the possibility of parole.

Gov. Gavin Newsom in 2019 declared a moratorium on the death penalty in California, which hasn't

[See **Half Moon,** A12]



SHAE HAMMOND Pool Photo

CHUNLI ZHAO, seen at his arraignment Wednesday, is accused of fatally shooting seven co-workers.

Harris visits a grieving community

Vice president joins gathering at Monterey Park studio and meets with victims' relatives. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Dancing provided joy and a haven

Why the ballroom has long been a draw for older immigrants in Southern California. **CALENDAR, E1**

'WHAT DROVE A MADMAN TO DO THIS?'

Monterey Park shooter's motive is still unclear and may never be determined

BY RICHARD WINTON, HANNAH FRY, JAMES RAINEY AND JULIA WICK

In the four days since 72-year-old Huu Can Tran opened fire at a Monterey Park dance studio, fragments of his life and possible motives for the attack have slowly emerged.

He at one time frequented the ballroom dance scene but appeared to have personal grievances against some in that world. He lived a somewhat isolated life. A law enforcement source confirmed to The Times that Tran was a gun enthusiast who purchased the semiautomatic MAC-10 assault weapon used in the attack in 1999.

But a clear sense of why he killed 11 people in Monterey Park before launching another attack at a dance hall in Alhambra that was thwarted remains a mystery.

And that mystery only seemed to grow Wednesday night with a hastily called news conference by L.A. County Sheriff Robert Luna, who said no one has yet recalled Tran visiting

[See **Motive,** A7]

Among Asian American communities, domestic violence often in shadows

BY SONJA SHARP AND KATIE LICARI

Hours before Monterey Park shooter Huu Can Tran was found slumped over the steering wheel of his white cargo van, before his name was released or his victims identified, rumors swirled about his motive.

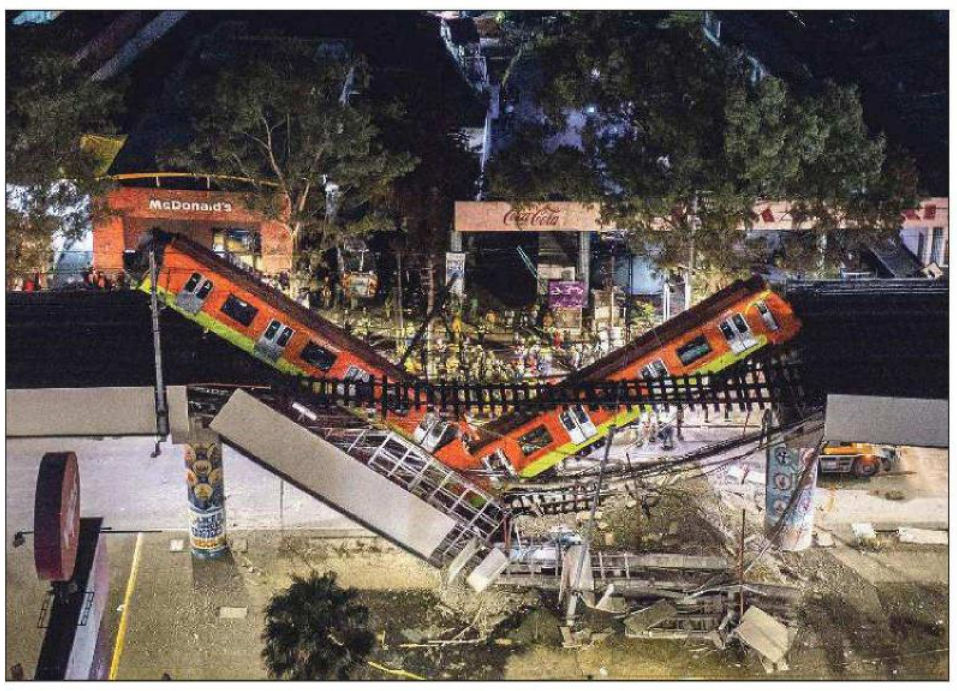
Was it jealousy that drove the 72-year-old Tran to storm Star Ballroom Dance Studio on the eve of Lunar New Year, killing 11 people and injuring nine more? Had he been hunting his ex-wife when he was disarmed at Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio in Alhambra?

"What drove a madman to do this?" Los Angeles County Sheriff Robert Luna said at a news conference Monday afternoon. "We don't know. But we intend to find out."

On Tuesday, Monterey Park Police Chief Scott Wiese admitted they might never know.

"The biggest question that our community has is motive — everybody wants to know why," Wiese said at a news conference outside

[See **Violence,** A7]



HECTOR VIVAS Getty Images

THE COLLAPSE of an elevated Metro line in Mexico City killed 26 people in May 2021. The dilapidated subway system has become a symbol of Mexico's problems.

Riders wait and seethe

After string of subway accidents, Mexico City mayor sends in the troops. Critics call for engineers instead.

BY KATE LINTHICUM

MEXICO CITY — Luis Rodríguez spends three hours on the subway most days traveling between his home on the northern edge of Mexico City and his university 25 miles south.

It's a long commute for the 21-year-old student. His mother hates every minute of it.

Like the rest of the country, she's watched as the aging subway system here has been crippled by deadly accidents, including a collapse in 2021 that killed 26 people and a collision this month that left an 18-year-old student dead.

"She tells me to be very safe, but the truth is, it's out of our hands," Rodríguez said as he steadied himself on a shuttering subway car on a recent morning. "It's not up to me whether this line collapses. We're all vulnerable here."

The inauguration of the Mexico City Metro shortly after the 1968 Olympics was supposed to modernize this bustling mountain capital, bringing it on par with great world cities such as Paris and New York.

It promised too to be a great equalizer, giving the millions of workers living in informal settlements on the city's periphery access to the thriving culture and economy at its center.

But after years of neglect, the Metro has instead become a stand-in for Mexico's broader problems: entrenched inequality, unreliable public services and

[See **Metro,** A4]

An early-warning system for new COVID-19 outbreaks

A team has trained computers to comb internet for advance signs of a viral surge.

BY MELISSA HEALY

Imagine a time when your virus-blocking face-covering is like an umbrella. Most days, it stays in your closet or is stowed somewhere in your car. But when a COVID-19 outbreak is in the forecast, you can put it to use.

Beyond that, an inclement viral forecast might induce you to choose an outdoor table when meeting a friend for coffee. If catching the coronavirus is likely to make you seriously ill, you might opt to work from home or attend church services online until the threat has passed.

Such a future assumes that Americans will heed public health warnings about the pandemic virus — and that is a big *if*. It also assumes the existence of a system that can reliably predict imminent outbreaks with few false alarms, and with enough timeliness and geographic precision that the public will trust its forecasts.

A group of would-be forecasters says it's got the makings for such a system. Its proposal for building a viral weather report was published last week in the journal Science Advances.

Like the meteorological models that drive weather forecasts, the system to predict COVID-19 outbreaks emerges from a river of data fed by hundreds of streams of local and global information. They include time-stamped internet searches for symptoms such as chest tightness, loss of smell or exhaustion; geolocated tweets that include terms

[See **System,** A9]

County extends renter protection

With a deadline looming, supervisors vote to keep the eviction moratorium in place through March. **CALIFORNIA, B1**

Trump ban from social media ends

Ex-president's Facebook and Instagram accounts are reinstated after two-year suspensions. **BUSINESS, A8**

Weather
Sunny.
L.A. Basin: 70/45. **B6**

MINDAUGAS KULBIS Associated Press

HEAVY WEAPONS FOR KYIV

Biden says he will send 31 M1 Abrams battle tanks to Ukraine, and Germany agrees to provide 14 Leopard 2 tanks, seen above in 2018. **WORLD, A3**

VISIT…

Intervention urged to foil mass attacks

U.S. communities must be alert to warning signs and let authorities know early, new report says.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — As the nation reels from a week of high-profile shootings, a new report on mass attacks calls for communities to intervene early when they see warning signs of violence, encourages businesses to consider workplace violence prevention plans and highlights the connection between domestic violence, misogyny and mass attacks.

The report released Wednesday by the U.S. Secret Service's National Threat Assessment Center analyzed 173 mass attacks carried out over a five-year period from January 2016 to December 2020 in public or semi-public places such as businesses, schools or churches.

It was released as the U.S. experienced a particularly deadly start to the new year that has left 39 people dead in six mass killings, including one this week in Monterey Park that left 11 people dead at a dance hall as they welcomed in the Lunar New Year.

"It's just happening way too often," said Lina Alathari, the center's director, during a news conference ahead of the report's release. Alathari said that while the center had not specifically studied the shootings that took place this week, there are themes seen "over and over again" when analyzing mass attacks.

The report is the latest in a series undertaken by the center to look at the problem of mass attacks. While previous reports examined the specific years of 2017, 2018 and 2019, the new report noted that it analyzed multiple years of data and gives more "in-depth analysis of the thinking and behavior of mass attackers."

The center defines a mass attack as one in which three or more people — not including the attacker — were harmed. Almost all the attacks were carried out by one person, 96% of attackers were men, and the attackers ranged in age from 14 to 87.

The report noted that nearly two-thirds of attackers exhibited behaviors or communications "that were so concerning, they should have been met with an immediate response." It said these concerns were often shared with law enforcement, employers, school staff or parents. But in one-fifth of the cases, the concerning behavior wasn't relayed to anyone "in a position to respond, demonstrating a continued need to promote and facilitate bystander reporting."

The report also called for greater attention toward domestic violence and misogyny, noting that nearly half of the attackers studied had a history of domestic violence, misogynistic behavior or both.

"Though not all who possess misogynistic views are violent, viewpoints that describe women as the enemy or call for violence against women remain a cause for concern," the report said.

About half the attacks in the study involved a business location, and attackers often had a relationship with the business, as an employee, a customer or a former employer. The report also noted the role that grievances like workplace disputes or feuds with neighbors played in mass attacks. About half the attacks were motivated "in whole or in part by a perceived grievance," according to the report.

"Workplaces should establish behavioral threat assessment programs as a component of their workplace violence prevention plans, and businesses should also establish proactive relationships with area law enforcement so that they may work collaboratively to respond to incidents involving a concern for violence, whether that concern arises from a current employee, a former employee, or a customer," the report read.

WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

A VIGIL for Monterey Park mass shooting victims. "It's just happening way too often," said one official.

PETROS GIANNAKOURIS Associated Press

UNESCO chief Audrey Azoulay said Odesa "has left its mark in cinema, literature and the arts" and was "thus placed under the reinforced protection of the international community" while the war in Ukraine continues.

Odesa joins UNESCO list

U.N. agency includes the Ukrainian port's historic city center among endangered World Heritage sites.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

PARIS — The United Nations' cultural agency decided Wednesday to add the historic center of Ukraine's Black Sea port city of Odesa to its list of endangered World Heritage sites, recognizing "the outstanding universal value of the site and the duty of all humanity to protect it."

The decision was made at an extraordinary session of UNESCO's World Heritage Committee in Paris.

UNESCO Director-General Audrey Azoulay praised the move, saying the "legendary port that has left its mark in cinema, literature and the arts" was "thus placed under the reinforced protection of the international community."

"While the war is going on, this inscription embodies our collective determination to ensure that this city ... is preserved from further destruction," Azoulay added in a statement.

Russian forces have launched multiple artillery attacks and airstrikes on Odesa since invading Ukraine 11 months ago.

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky called on UNESCO in October to put Odesa on its World Heritage List, which recognizes places of "outstanding universal value."

The World Heritage Committee agreed Wednesday while also adding the city's historic center to its list of endangered sites.

Changes to the text proposed by Russia delayed the 21-member committee's vote. In the end, six delegates voted in favor, one voted no and 14 abstained.

Russian delegate Tatiana Dovgalenko lambasted the decision, asserting that local citizens had destroyed some Odesa monuments that were cited to justify the endangered designation.

"Today, we witnessed the funeral of the World Heritage Convention," she said, adding that pressure prevailed and scientific objectivity "was shamefully violated."

Ukrainian Culture Minister Oleksandr Tkachenko welcomed the vote's outcome, saying it would protect Odesa's multicultural history.

"It's a great historic day," he told reporters. "Definitively, Odesa is under danger due to Russia's full-scale invasion. ... I have very much hope that the umbrella of UNESCO can protect at least Odesa skies and Odesa itself from this barbaric attack of Russians."

Ukraine is not a member of the UNESCO committee.

Under the 1972 UNESCO convention, ratified by both Ukraine and Russia, signatories undertake to "assist in the protection of the listed sites" and are "obliged to refrain from taking any deliberate measures" that might damage World Heritage sites.

Inclusion on the List of World Heritage in Danger is meant to "open access to emergency international assistance mechanisms, both technical and financial, to strengthen the protection of the property and help its rehabilitation," according to UNESCO.

Before Wednesday's vote, Ukraine was home to seven World Heritage sites, including the St. Sophia Cathedral and related monastic buildings in the capital, Kyiv. To date, none have been damaged by the war, although UNESCO noted damage to more than 230 cultural buildings in Ukraine.

Azoulay told reporters that Odesa's status was examined under an "emergency procedure" amid the ongoing fighting.

She said "precise satellite surveillance" was being used for the first time to monitor Ukraine's World Heritage sites.

On its website, UNESCO describes Odesa as the only city in Ukraine that has entirely preserved the urban structure of a multinational southern port town typical of the late 18th and 19th centuries.

Two other sites were added Wednesday to the List of World Heritage in Danger: the Ancient Yemenite Kingdom of Saba and the Rachid Karami International Fair in Tripoli, Lebanon.

A U.S. link to aid for Israeli radicals

BY URI BLAU AND TIA GOLDENBERG

JERUSALEM — An Israeli group raising funds for Jewish extremists convicted of some of the country's most notorious hate crimes is collecting tax-exempt donations from Americans, according to findings by the Associated Press and the Israeli investigative platform Shomrim.

The records in the case suggest that Israel's far right is gaining a new foothold in the United States.

The amount of money raised through a U.S. nonprofit is not known. But the AP and Shomrim have documented the money trail from New Jersey to imprisoned Israeli radicals who include Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin's assassin and people convicted in deadly attacks on Palestinians.

This overseas fundraising arrangement has made it easier for the Israeli group, Shlom Asiraich, to collect money from Americans, who can make their contributions through the U.S. nonprofit with a credit card and claim a tax deduction.

Many Israeli causes and groups, including hospitals, universities and charities, raise money through U.S.-based arms. But having the strategy adopted by a group assisting Jewish radicals raises legal and moral questions.

It also comes against the backdrop of a new, far-right government in Israel led by Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu, in which ultranationalists and extremist lawmakers have gained unprecedented power.

According to Shlom Asiraich's promotional pamphlets, its beneficiaries include Yigal Amir, who assassinated Rabin in 1995; Amiram Ben-Uliel, convicted in the 2015 murder of a Palestinian baby and his parents in an arson attack; and Yosef Haim Ben-David, convicted of abducting and killing a 16-year-old Palestinian boy in Jerusalem in 2014. The group also assists an extremist ultra-Orthodox man who fatally stabbed a 16-year-old Israeli girl at Jerusalem's gay pride parade in 2015.

MAHMOUD ILLEAN Associated Press

AN ISRAELI fundraising group's beneficiaries include convicted killer Yosef Haim Ben-David, center.

Shlom Asiraich, or "The Well-Being of Your Prisoners," has been raising money in Israel since at least 2018, and was officially registered as a nonprofit in 2020 by a group mostly consisting of Israelis from hard-line settlements in the West Bank. At least five of the group's seven founders have been questioned by Israeli authorities for crimes related to their activities against Palestinians. Some have been arrested and charged.

Recipients of its largesse have hailed the group for coming through in difficult times.

"You have no idea how much you help us," the family of Ben-Uliel, who is serving three life sentences, wrote in a handwritten letter posted on the group's Facebook page.

Being a relatively new organization, Shlom Asiraich provides little data in its official filing to Israel's nonprofit registry and does not indicate how much money it has raised. But in its promotional fliers, as reported recently by Israeli Channel 13 news, the organization indicated that it has raised 150,000 shekels (about $43,000).

Israeli nonprofits have long sought funding abroad, with the U.S. a major source. Figures published by Noga Zivan, a consultant for nonprofits in Israel, indicate that between 2018 and 2020, Jewish American organizations donated $2 billion to Israel annually.

Israeli right-wing groups have long raised funds in the U.S. But Dvir Kariv, a former official with Shin Bet, Israel's domestic security agency, which deals with Jewish violence, said it was unusual for extremist Jews such as the ones who run Shlom Asiraich to do so.

He said the group appears to have taken a cue from other far-right Israeli groups, particularly Kach, an anti-Arab racist group that was once banned as a terrorist organization in the U.S. but that Kariv said was adept at raising money there decades ago.

Itamar Ben-Gvir, a senior Cabinet minister in Israel's new far-right government, is a disciple of Kach's founder, Rabbi Meir Kahane, who was once barred from Israeli politics.

It is unclear when Shlom Asiraich began working with the New Jersey-based World of Tzedaka, a nonprofit that says it works "to enable any individual or organization to raise money for their specific cause."

Donors in the U.S. can enter the Shlom Asiraich site and click on a link that takes them to a donation page hosted by World of Tzedaka.

According to the World of Tzedaka site, fundraisers must list a rabbi as a reference and receive approval from a Lakewood, N.J., religious committee. There is a monthly charge and a fee for transferring funds to an Israeli bank account, the site says.

World of Tzedaka supports other charitable ventures, most of them focused on assisting Jewish families in distress, according to its website.

Ellen Aprill, an expert on tax and charities at Loyola Law School in Los Angeles, said convicted criminals and their families could be considered in need and qualify as a permissible charitable purpose.

While supporting someone convicted of acts of terrorism could be seen as encouraging criminal activity, that would need to be proved, she said.

Marcus Owens, a lawyer who ran the Internal Revenue Service's nonprofit unit in the 1990s, took a tougher stance.

"The U.S. Department of Justice views assistance to the families of terrorists as a form of material support for terrorism," he said.

Repeated attempts to reach Shlom Asiraich were unsuccessful.

Blau writes for Shomrim and Goldenberg for the Associated Press. This article was published in partnership with Shomrim, the Center for Media and Democracy in Israel.

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PARIS

U.S., Germany to send tanks to Ukraine

Allies break deadlock as Berlin agrees to provide Leopards and Washington to deliver M1 Abrams to Kyiv.

By Frank Jordans and Kirsten Grieshaber

Csaba Krizsan MTI

A GERMAN Leopard 2 battle tank maneuvers during a demonstration in Tata, Hungary, in 2020. Berlin has agreed to deliver 14 Leopards and the United States will provide 31 Abrams tanks to Ukraine.

WASHINGTON — President Biden announced Wednesday that the U.S. will send 31 M1 Abrams battle tanks to Ukraine, reversing months of persistent arguments that the tanks were too difficult for Ukrainian troops to operate and maintain.

The U.S. decision came on the heels of Germany agreeing to send 14 Leopard 2 A6 tanks from its own stocks. Germany had said the Leopards would not be sent unless the U.S. put its Abrams on the table, not wanting to incur Russia's wrath without the U.S. similarly committing its own tanks.

"This is the result of intensive consultations, once again, with our allies and international partners," German Chancellor Olaf Scholz told German lawmakers. "It was right, and it is important that we didn't let ourselves be driven" into the decision.

Biden said that European allies have agreed to send enough tanks to equip two Ukrainian tank battalions, or a total of about 62 tanks.

"With spring approaching, Ukrainian forces are working to defend the territory they hold and preparing for additional counteroffenses," Biden said in his announcement of his decision to send the tanks. "To liberate their land, they need to be able to counter Russia's evolving tactics and strategy on the battlefield in the very near term."

The announcement ends a standoff between Germany and the United States. Biden administration officials on Wednesday sought to downplay any friction between the two allies as both unveiled their plans.

Both sides had participated in "good diplomatic conversations" that had made the difference and were part of the "extraordinary shift in Germany's security policy" over providing weapons to Ukraine since Russia invaded in February, said a senior administration official who briefed reporters Wednesday on condition of anonymity to describe the new tank package before the announcement.

The $400-million package announced Wednesday also includes eight M88 recovery vehicles — tank-like tracked vehicles that can tow an Abrams if it's stuck.

Altogether, France, the U.K., the U.S., Poland, Germany, the Netherlands and Sweden will send hundreds of tanks and heavy armored vehicles to fortify Ukraine as it enters a new phase of the war and attempts to break through entrenched Russian lines.

The U.S. tanks will be purchased through the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative, which means it will take some time for the Ukrainian forces to receive the tanks and be able to deploy them on the battlefield. The Pentagon plans soon to begin training Ukrainian forces on the system outside Ukraine.

The U.S. has thousands of Abrams in stock. Still, it does not have "excess stock," said White House National Security Council spokesman John F. Kirby. He said Ukraine's military will have to go through significant preparation to learn to operate, maintain and sustain the Abrams. It's a process that will take some months.

Using the assistance initiative funding route, instead of dipping into the existing U.S. stockpile, means it is unlikely the tanks will be available to Ukraine before Russia's anticipated spring offensive.

Kirby declined to pinpoint when the Abrams will be delivered but said the German-made Leopards are expected to make their way to Ukrainian forces more quickly. The deployment also suggests that the U.S. and its allies are girding to support Ukraine for a long war that shows no signs of coming to an end.

Doug Bush, assistant secretary of the Army for acquisition, said the U.S. stock includes both the older variants and newer M1A2 Abrams variants, and when a "new" tank is needed, it starts with an older hull.

"We don't produce any tanks from scratch anymore," Bush said. "We have a large stock of older M1s that we use as seed vehicles. Were we to ever run out of those, sure we would build new. But right now, no matter which option we go, we don't have to build completely new."

The Russian ambassador to Germany, Sergey Nechayev, called Berlin's decision to send Leopard 2 tanks to Ukraine "extremely dangerous" and said it "shifts the conflict to a new level of confrontation."

Biden said Russia should not view the decision to provide the tanks as an escalation in the war.

"It is not an offensive threat to Russia," Biden said. "There is no offensive threat to Russia. If Russian troops return to Russia, where they belong, this war would be over today."

Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky applauded Biden for the "powerful decision to provide Abrams," declaring on Twitter that "the free world is united as never before" in the 11-month-old war.

Until now, the U.S. had resisted providing its M1 Abrams tanks to Ukraine, citing extensive and complex maintenance and logistical challenges with the high-tech vehicles. Washington believes it will be more productive to send the German Leopards since many allies have them and Ukrainian troops will need less training than on the more difficult Abrams.

Biden in an exchange with reporters bristled at the notion that Germany, which had declined to provide tanks until the U.S. agreed to provide its Abrams, forced his hand.

"Germany didn't force me to change [my] mind," Biden said. "We wanted to make sure we were all together."

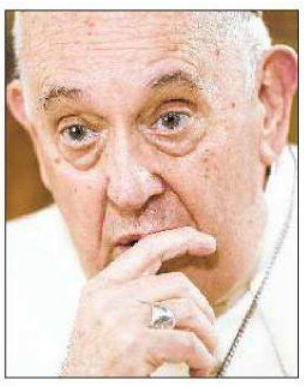
For the Abrams to be effective in Ukraine, its forces will require extensive training on combined arms maneuver — how the tanks operate together on the battlefield — and on how to maintain and support the complex, 70-ton weapon. The Abrams tanks use a turbine jet engine that burns through fuel whether moving or idling — at least two gallons a mile when on the move — which means that a network of fuel trucks is needed to keep the line moving.

"When they get there, we want to make sure that they fall on ready hands, and that the Ukrainians know how to use them, they know how to keep them running, and they've got the supply chain in place for spare parts and supplies, and anything else they need so that they can be more effective on the battlefield," Kirby said.

Jordans and Grieshaber write for the Associated Press and reported from Berlin and Washington, respectively.

'Being homosexual isn't a crime,' pope declares

By Nicole Winfield



Andrew Medichini AP

FRANCIS' comments were hailed by gay rights advocates as a milestone.

VATICAN CITY — Pope Francis criticized laws that criminalize homosexuality as "unjust," saying God loves all of his children just as they are and called on Roman Catholic bishops who support the laws to welcome LGBTQ people into the church.

"Being homosexual isn't a crime," Francis said during an interview Tuesday with the Associated Press.

Francis acknowledged that Catholic bishops in some parts of the world support laws that criminalize homosexuality or discriminate against LGBTQ people, and he himself referred to the issue in terms of "sin." But he attributed such attitudes to cultural backgrounds, and said bishops in particular need to undergo a process of change to recognize the dignity of everyone.

"These bishops have to have a process of conversion," he said, adding that they should apply "tenderness, please, as God has for each one of us."

Francis' comments, which were hailed by gay rights advocates as a milestone, are the first uttered by a pope about such laws. But they are also consistent with his overall approach to LGBTQ people and belief that the Catholic Church should welcome everyone and not discriminate.

Some 67 countries or jurisdictions worldwide criminalize consensual same-sex sexual activity, 11 of which can or do impose the death penalty, according to the Human Dignity Trust, which works to end such laws. Experts say that even where the laws are not enforced, they contribute to harassment, stigmatization and violence against LGBTQ people.

In the U.S., more than a dozen states still have anti-sodomy laws on the books, despite a 2003 Supreme Court ruling declaring them unconstitutional. Gay rights advocates say the antiquated laws are used to justify harassment, and point to new legislation, such as the "Don't say gay" law in Florida, which forbids instruction on sexual orientation and gender identity in kindergarten through third grade, as evidence of continued efforts to marginalize LGBTQ people.

The United Nations has called for an end to laws criminalizing homosexuality outright, saying they violate rights to privacy and freedom from discrimination and are a breach of countries' obligations to protect the human rights of all people, regardless of their sexual orientation or gender identity.

Declaring such laws "unjust," Francis said the Catholic Church can and should work to put an end to them. "It must do this. It must do this," he said.

Francis quoted the Catechism of the Catholic Church in saying gay people must be welcomed and respected, and should not be marginalized or discriminated against.

"We are all children of God, and God loves us as we are and for the strength that each of us fights for our dignity," Francis said, speaking to the AP in the Vatican hotel where he lives.

Francis' remarks come ahead of a trip to Africa, where such laws are common, as they are in the Middle East. Many date from British colonial times or are inspired by Islamic law. Some Catholic bishops have strongly upheld them as consistent with Vatican teaching, and others have called for them to be overturned as a violation of basic human dignity.

In 2019, Francis had been expected to issue a statement opposing criminalization of homosexuality during a meeting with human rights groups that conducted research into the effects of such laws and so-called "conversion therapies."

In the end, after word of the audience leaked, the pope didn't meet with the groups. Instead, the Vatican's No. 2 official did and reaffirmed "the dignity of every human person and against every form of violence."

On Tuesday, Francis said there needed to be a distinction between a crime and a sin with regard to homosexuality. Church teaching holds that homosexual acts are sinful, or "intrinsically disordered," but that gay people must be treated with dignity and respect.

Bantering with himself, Francis articulated the position: "It's not a crime. Yes, but it's a sin. Fine, but first let's distinguish between a sin and a crime."

"It's also a sin to lack charity with one another," he added.

One of the cardinals recently appointed by the pope — Robert McElroy, the bishop of San Diego — is among those Catholics who would like the church to go further, and fully welcome LGBTQ people into the church even if they are sexually active.

"It is a demonic mystery of the human soul why so many men and women have a profound and visceral animus toward members of the L.G.B.T. communities," McElroy wrote Tuesday in the Jesuit magazine America. "The church's primary witness in the face of this bigotry must be one of embrace rather than distance or condemnation."

Winfield writes for the Associated Press.

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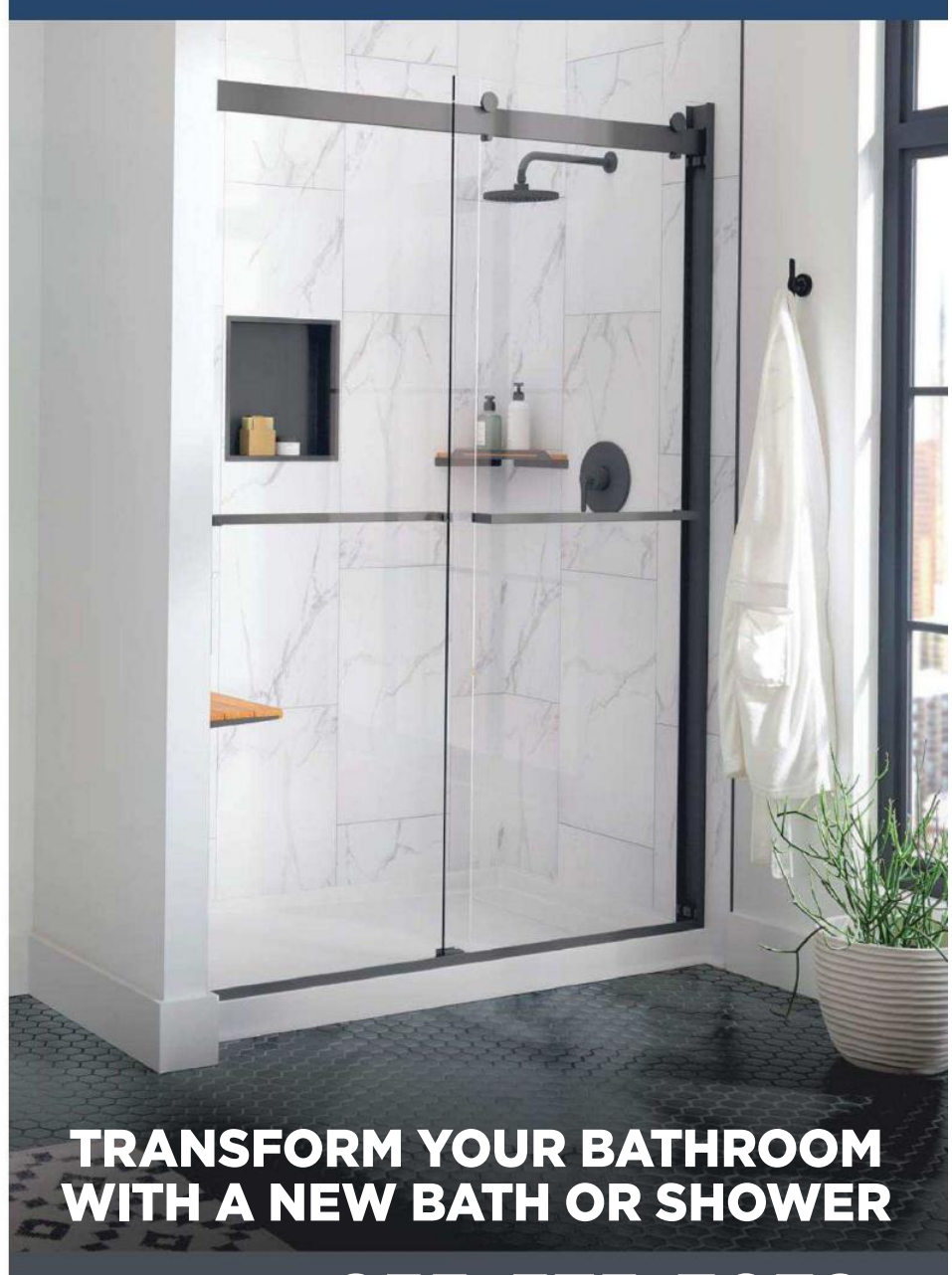

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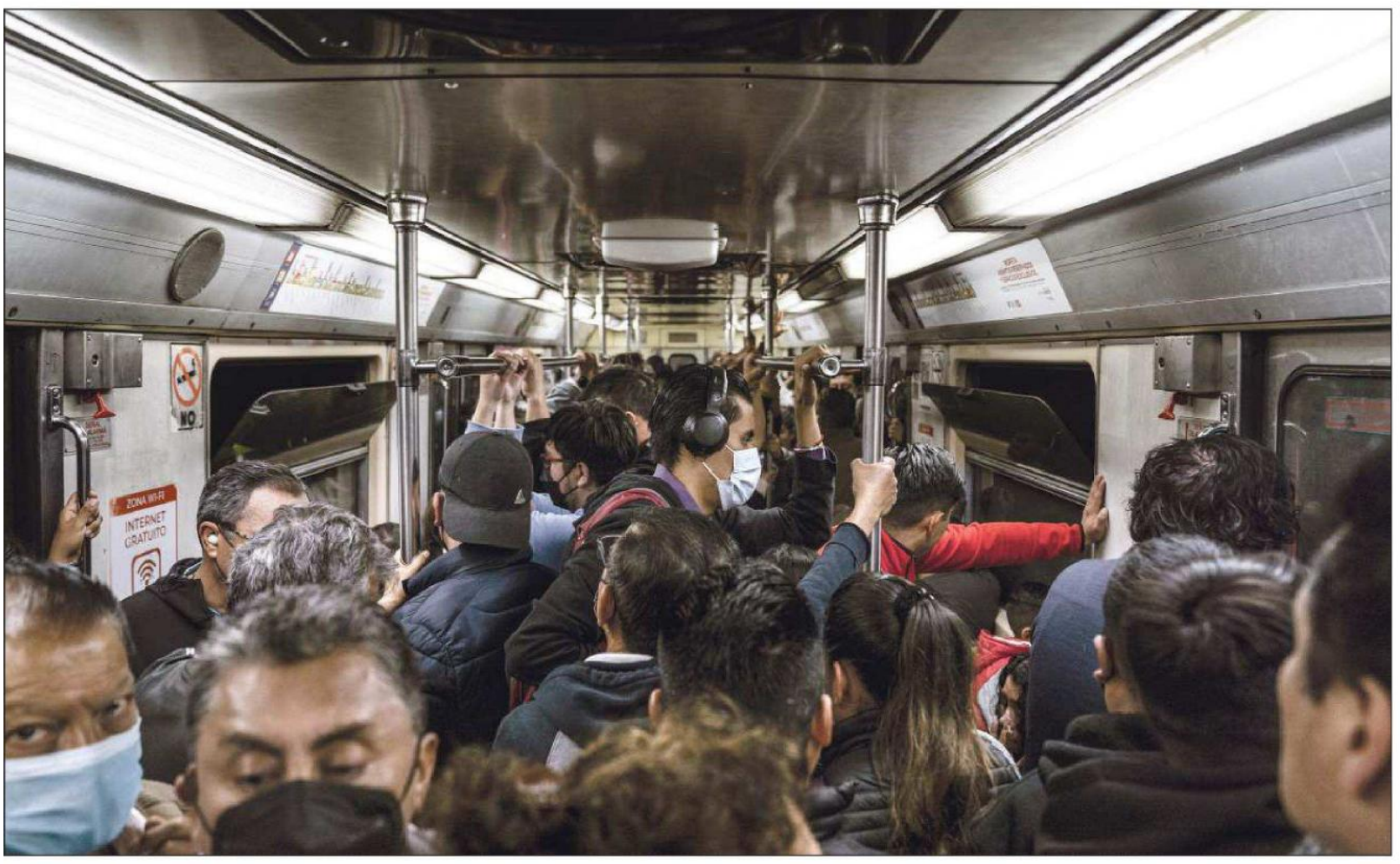


TOYA SARNO JORDAN For The Times

A 72-YEAR-OLD rider says of Mexico City's accident-prone subway system: "We suffer it anyway because there is no other option."

Underground political battleground

[**Metro,** from A1]
corruption so flagrant and pervasive that at times it actually kills.

These days, the Metro is also a political battlefield.

In addition to the deadly crashes, other alarming incidents in recent months include electrical failures, train cars spontaneously separating and a series of underground fires that have sickened dozens of riders. On Monday, 18 people were hospitalized after high-voltage cables overheated and choked a station with black smoke.

Opponents of Mexico City Mayor Claudia Sheinbaum — a favorite to become the country's next president — blame her for the breakdowns, saying her government has not properly maintained the system.

Sheinbaum, in turn, has blamed unnamed saboteurs for what she describes as an "atypical" uptick in system failures.

She is backed by President Andrés Manuel López Obrador, a longtime political ally who granted her request to deploy more than 6,000 national guard troops to the Metro to ward against what he termed — without offering evidence — possible "premeditated" attacks.

Critics say the government should be sending engineers, not soldiers, to address the Metro's problems. During a series of protests in recent days, activists scrawled graffiti linking the troop deployment to López Obrador's broader militarization of the country and calling Sheinbaum an "assassin."

As prosecutors investigate the recent incidents, one thing is clear: The crashes, political discord and now troops in fatigues at every train station have unnerved many of the 5 million mostly working-class people who rely on the Metro daily.

"None of us are comfortable," said Armando, a 72-year-old textile vendor who declined to give his last name precisely because the Metro has become so politicized. "But we suffer it anyway because there is no other option."

For the 22 million people who live in and around Mexico City, an unruly metropolitan area that spans 3,000 square miles, transportation has always been a thorny issue. Many can't afford cars, and anyway, roads and highways are notoriously snarled with traffic. Privately run buses are ubiquitous but frequently targeted by armed robbers.

The Metro, with its 140 miles of underground and elevated tracks, has long been the most efficient and inexpensive way to get around. It is a city in itself: a labyrinth of echoing corridors and 195 stations boasting internet cafes, dress shops, pizza places, libraries and even yoga classes.

A ride costs just 5 pesos — around 25 cents — and is heavily subsidized by the government. That cheap fare is part of the problem: The system has never come close to paying its own costs, so maintenance depends on how much money political leaders allot it. Until 2021, funding for the Metro had steadily fallen, part of a broader austerity plan pushed by López Obrador.

The disrepair is obvious. On some lines, train cars that debuted when the Metro opened 54 years ago are still in use. Stations are poorly lighted, and many escalators are perpetually broken, so old that replacement parts are no longer manufactured.

"A lot of equipment and systems have already exceeded their useful lifespan and should have been replaced 20 years or 15 years ago," said Jorge Jiménez Alcaraz, who heads Mexico's trade group for engineers and architects and who served as the director of the Metro system in 2018. He said that he and other Metro officials frequently asked for more resources, but that politicians were loath to raise train fares because of the protest it would provoke.

Although the Metro has long been beset by pickpocketing and sexual harassment — so much so that a few years ago the city began segregating train cars by gender and handing out rape whistles — its safety problems have come into focus more recently, spurred in part by a string of dramatic wrecks.

In 2020, two trains collided, killing one person and injuring 41 others.

The following year, a fire in a Metro control center killed one and injured 31.

Later in 2021, an elevated train line buckled in half, dragging two subway cars onto the highway below. The crash on Line 12 killed 26 people, injured 100 and made the Metro's failings global news.

As soon as that line had been inaugurated in 2012, passengers had begun complaining about cracks in the structure of the concrete viaduct over which the trains passed. A congressional investigation in 2014 found major structural flaws, low-quality construction materials and a "deficient, hasty and incomplete certification of the functionality and safety of the line."

A Norwegian firm hired to investigate the accident blamed faulty construction and a lack of maintenance under Sheinbaum, who took office in late 2018, and the previous mayoral administration. Sheinbaum rejected the findings and threatened to sue the firm.

The political ramifications were immediate. The section of train line that collapsed had been built by a company owned by Mexico's wealthiest man, telecom and construction magnate Carlos Slim, during the mayoral term of Marcelo Ebrard, now foreign secretary and Sheinbaum's top rival for the presidential nomination of their political party, Morena.

After the crash, protesters demanded more investment in the Metro: "It wasn't an accident, it was negligence," read messages written around the city.

Sheinbaum promised to rebuild Line 12 and make other improvements.

But the problems have continued. This month, two trains collided, killing one person and injuring 57.

There are signs the incidents are damaging the mayor's political standing.

A January poll by El Financiero newspaper showed support for Sheinbaum had dipped in one month by 5 percentage points to 41%.

Her opponents say the sabotage allegations are attempts to shift blame.

"She is incapable of understanding the criminal responsibility that she bears for the unfortunate death of people on the Metro during her government," said Luisa Gutiérrez, a local deputy for the right-of-center National Action Party.

Riders themselves are worried but resigned. Chilangos, as Mexico City residents call themselves, are used to living with the unknown: major earthquakes, unexpected water shortages, electrical blackouts.

"We're resilient people," said Miguel Ángel Sanchez, 69, who was waiting in a crush of morning rush-hour commuters, hoping to board a train. As usual, there were long delays. Earlier, another train he had been riding on had stopped on the tracks for several minutes, not moving, as the smell of smoke filled the tunnel.

He said he wished the politicians deciding the fate of the Metro actually rode it.

"Which among them would get on the Metro?" he asked. "No, they all have high-end cars: Mercedes, BMWs, Audis."

In front of him, people pushed onto an already crowded waiting train. One man's backpack got caught between the doors and other passengers scrambled to free it. Sanchez looked on in disgust. "Look at this," he said. "It makes me want to move to the country."

Cecilia Sánchez Vidal in The Times' Mexico City bureau contributed to this report.

Hipkins sworn in as New Zealand leader

The liberal prime minister succeeds Jacinda Ardern, who resigned last week.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WELLINGTON, New Zealand — Chris Hipkins was sworn in Wednesday as New Zealand's 41st prime minister, following the unexpected resignation last week of Jacinda Ardern.

Hipkins, 44, has promised a back-to-basics approach focusing on the economy and what he described as the "pandemic of inflation."

He will have less than nine months before contesting a tough general election, with opinion polls indicating that his Labor Party is trailing its conservative opposition.

New Zealand Governor-General Cindy Kiro officiated the brief swearing-in ceremony in front of Hipkins' friends and colleagues after she earlier accepted Ardern's resignation.

"This is the biggest privilege and responsibility of my life," Hipkins said at the ceremony. "I'm energized and excited by the challenges that lie ahead."

Carmel Sepuloni was also sworn in as deputy prime minister, the first time a person with Pacific Island heritage has taken on the role. She congratulated Hipkins and thanked him for the trust he'd placed in her.

After the ceremony, Hipkins said as an aside to reporters: "It feels pretty real now."

Hipkins is known to many by the nickname "Chippy," which fits with his upbeat demeanor and skills as an amateur handyman.

He served as education and police minister under Ardern. He rose to public prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic, during which he took on a crisis management role. But he and other liberals have long been in the shadow of Ardern, who exemplified a new style of leadership.

Ardern last week said she was resigning after more than five years in the role because she no longer had "enough in the tank" to do the job justice. "It's that simple," she said.

On Tuesday she made her final official appearance as prime minister, saying the thing she would miss most was the people because they had been the "joy of the job." On Wednesday morning, she was greeted with hugs and farewells by dozens of former staff and admirers on Parliament's forecourt as she left the building.

Ardern plans to stay on as a backbench lawmaker until April to avoid triggering a special election ahead of the nation's general election in October.

New Zealand's head of state is Britain's King Charles III, who succeeded his mother, Queen Elizabeth II, after her death in September, and Kiro is his representative in New Zealand, although these days the nation's relationship with the monarchy is largely symbolic.

Britain's Prince William and his wife, Catherine, thanked Ardern on Twitter "for your friendship, leadership and support over the years, not least at the time of my grandmother's death. Sending you, Clarke and Neve our best wishes. W & C."

Clarke Gayford is Ardern's fiance, and Neve is their 4-year-old daughter.

M. MITCHELL New Zealand Herald

CHRIS HIPKINS, the new prime minister, rose to prominence during the COVID-19 pandemic.

As global conflicts increase, so do killings of journalists

ASSOCIATED PRESS

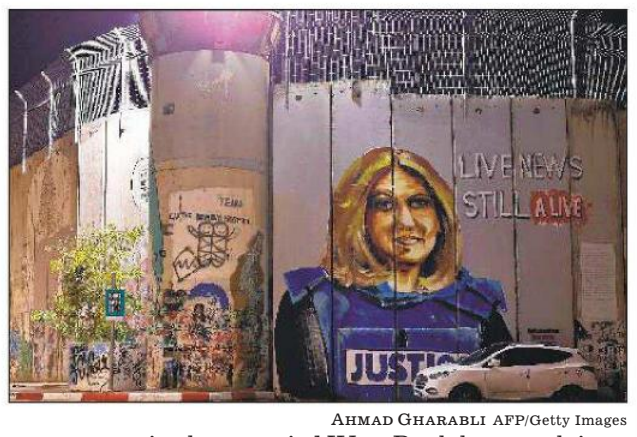
PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti — Killings of journalists around the world jumped by 50% in 2022 compared with the previous year, driven largely by attacks in Ukraine, Mexico and Haiti.

According to a report this week by the New York-based Committee to Protect Journalists, at least 67 news media workers were killed worldwide in 2022, the highest number since 2018. Journalists in the three countries say the increased danger has forced them to work under extreme stress.

The effect is particularly notable in Haiti, where seven journalists were killed in 2022, a huge number for a small island country of about 12 million people. Some were killed by violent street gangs that have basically taken over the capital, Port au Prince, but at least two were shot by police.

Radio Caraibes reporter Mackenson Remy, who still covers news on the street, said journalists no longer know whom to trust.

"Reporting in Haiti nowadays is extremely difficult for journalists, specifically in the capital," Remy said. "Corruption is all over the place; there is no one you are able to count on."



AHMAD GHARABLI AFP/Getty Images

A MURAL in the occupied West Bank honors slain reporter Shireen abu Akleh, who was killed in May.

The CPJ noted that more than half — 35 of the 67 killings — took place in Ukraine, Mexico and Haiti.

Mexico saw 13 news workers killed, according to the committee. Other media groups have put the number at 15, which would make 2022 the deadliest year in at least three decades for Mexican journalists. In war-battered Ukraine, 15 news workers were killed last year, CPJ said Tuesday.

The CPJ said it had confirmed that 41 of the 67 journalists were killed "in direct connection with their work," and that it is investigating the motives for the 26 other slayings.

The CPJ said journalists covering the war in Ukraine "face enormous risk."

"Members of the press are frequently injured by shelling while covering the conflict, and some report that they have been targeted by Russian forces," the committee said in its report.

In Mexico, the slayings appeared to be due to a toxic mix of drug gang violence, local political corruption and a lack of punishment for killers.

The 2022 killings also included four journalists in the Philippines, and two each in Colombia, Brazil and Honduras.

Two journalists each were also killed in Bangladesh, India, Myanmar, Somalia and Chad.

One journalist was killed in the U.S. last year, Jeff German, a Las Vegas reporter.

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Afghan soldier seeking U.S. asylum freed

Abdul Wasi Safi, who had fled the Taliban, was arrested after crossing the border from Mexico to Texas.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

DAVID J. PHILLIP Associated Press

FORMER AFGHAN intelligence officer Abdul Wasi Safi, who aided U.S. forces in his home country, is shown in photographs held by his brother, Sami-ullah Safi.

HOUSTON — An Afghan soldier seeking U.S. asylum who was arrested while trying to cross the Mexico border has been freed and reunited with his brother after spending months in immigration detention, his attorney said Wednesday.

Abdul Wasi Safi's release from custody in a detention center in Eden, Texas, came after a judge dropped an immigration charge against him at the request of federal prosecutors.

Wasi Safi, an intelligence officer for the Afghan National Security Forces, fled Afghanistan following the withdrawal of U.S. forces in August 2021, fearing reprisals from the Taliban because he had provided U.S. forces with information on terrorists. In the summer of 2022, he began a treacherous journey from Brazil to the U.S.-Mexico border, where he was arrested in September near Eagle Pass, Texas. He hoped to join his brother, who lives in Houston.

Prosecutors filed a motion asking a federal judge in Del Rio, Texas, to dismiss the immigration charge "in the interest of justice," and on Monday the judge granted that request.

Zachary Fertitta, one of his criminal defense attorneys, said Wednesday that Wasi Safi is receiving medical care at an undisclosed location but that he plans to speak at a news conference on Friday in Houston.

Fertitta said Wasi Safi and his brother "are overjoyed to be reunited."

Jennifer Cervantes, one of Wasi Safi's immigration attorneys, said there was no reason to keep him in custody, especially given that the FBI has already spoken to him and found no problems.

"He's certainly not a danger to the United States. He's done a lot of good service for the United States," Cervantes said.

U.S. Rep. Sheila Jackson Lee, a Houston Democrat, belongs to a bipartisan group of lawmakers that has been working to free Wasi Safi. She said in a statement Tuesday night that she expects him to arrive in her hometown by Friday.

The Department of Homeland Security, which oversees Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement, has not responded to an email seeking comment Wednesday.

Sami-ullah Safi, Wasi Safi's brother, was employed by the U.S. military for several years as an interpreter. Sami Safi said that he is pleased the criminal case has been dropped but that he remains frustrated about how his sibling has been treated in light of his family's support for the U.S in Afghanistan.

"If we categorize my brother's service, how many lives he has saved because of his service and how many lives I have saved because of my service being a combat translator?" Sami Safi said.

Wasi Safi's case was first reported by the Texas Tribune.

On his journey from Brazil to the U.S., Wasi Safi suffered serious injuries from beatings, including damaged front teeth and hearing loss in his right ear.

Fertitta said Wasi Safi's injuries were not sufficiently treated while he was detained but it's unclear how serious of a concern they have become.

"I'm going to have to wait to be advised by the medical personnel on that," Fertitta said.

The lawyers, lawmakers and military organizations that have been working to free Wasi Safi say his case highlights how America's chaotic military withdrawal continues to harm Afghan citizens who helped the U.S. but were left behind.

Nearly 76,000 Afghans who worked with American soldiers since 2001 as translators, interpreters and partners arrived in the U.S. on military planes after the U.S. withdrawal from Afghanistan. But their immigration status remains unclear after Congress failed to pass a proposed law, the Afghan Adjustment Act, that would have solidified their legal residency status.

Cervantes said that Wasi Safi's case is not unique and that other Afghans seeking asylum at the U.S.-Mexico border have also faced difficulty getting their cases properly reviewed. She said she hopes her work "sheds some light on that and [helps] these guys get what I think is the right thing to do, what I think is fair for them."

Woman admits to mailing poison to Trump

Canadian is expected to receive prison term of nearly 22 years.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — A Canadian woman pleaded guilty Wednesday to mailing a threatening letter containing the poison ricin to then-President Trump at the White House.

The letter from Pascale Ferrier directing Trump to "give up and remove your application for this election" was intercepted at a mail sorting facility in September 2020, before it could reach the White House.

The 55-year-old Quebec woman also pleaded guilty to sending similar threatening letters to Texas law enforcement officials. She is expected to be sentenced to 262 months in prison, just short of 22 years, under the terms of a plea deal with prosecutors. A sentencing hearing is set for April.

"There is no place for political violence in our country, and no excuse for threatening public officials or endangering our public servants," the U.S. attorney in Washington, Matthew Graves, said in a statement.

Prosecutors said Ferrier made the ricin, a potentially deadly poison derived from processing castor beans, then mailed it to Trump with a letter that referred to him as "The Ugly Tyrant Clown" and read in part: "If it doesn't work, I'll find better recipe for another poison, or I might use my gun when I'll be able to come. Enjoy! FREE REBEL SPIRIT."

She was arrested trying to enter a border crossing in Buffalo, N.Y., carrying a gun, a knife and hundreds of rounds of ammunition, authorities said. Her lawyers did not immediately respond to a message seeking comment on the plea.

The investigation also turned up eight letters to Texas officials affiliated with facilities where Ferrier had been jailed in 2019. The notes created "fear and stress," even though they didn't succeed in poisoning their targets, said Alamdar Hamdani, the U.S. attorney for the Southern District of Texas.

Ferrier pleaded guilty to violating biological weapons prohibitions in separate criminal cases filed in Washington, D.C., and Texas.

Ferrier immigrated to Canada from France and is a dual citizen of the countries.

Los Angeles Times
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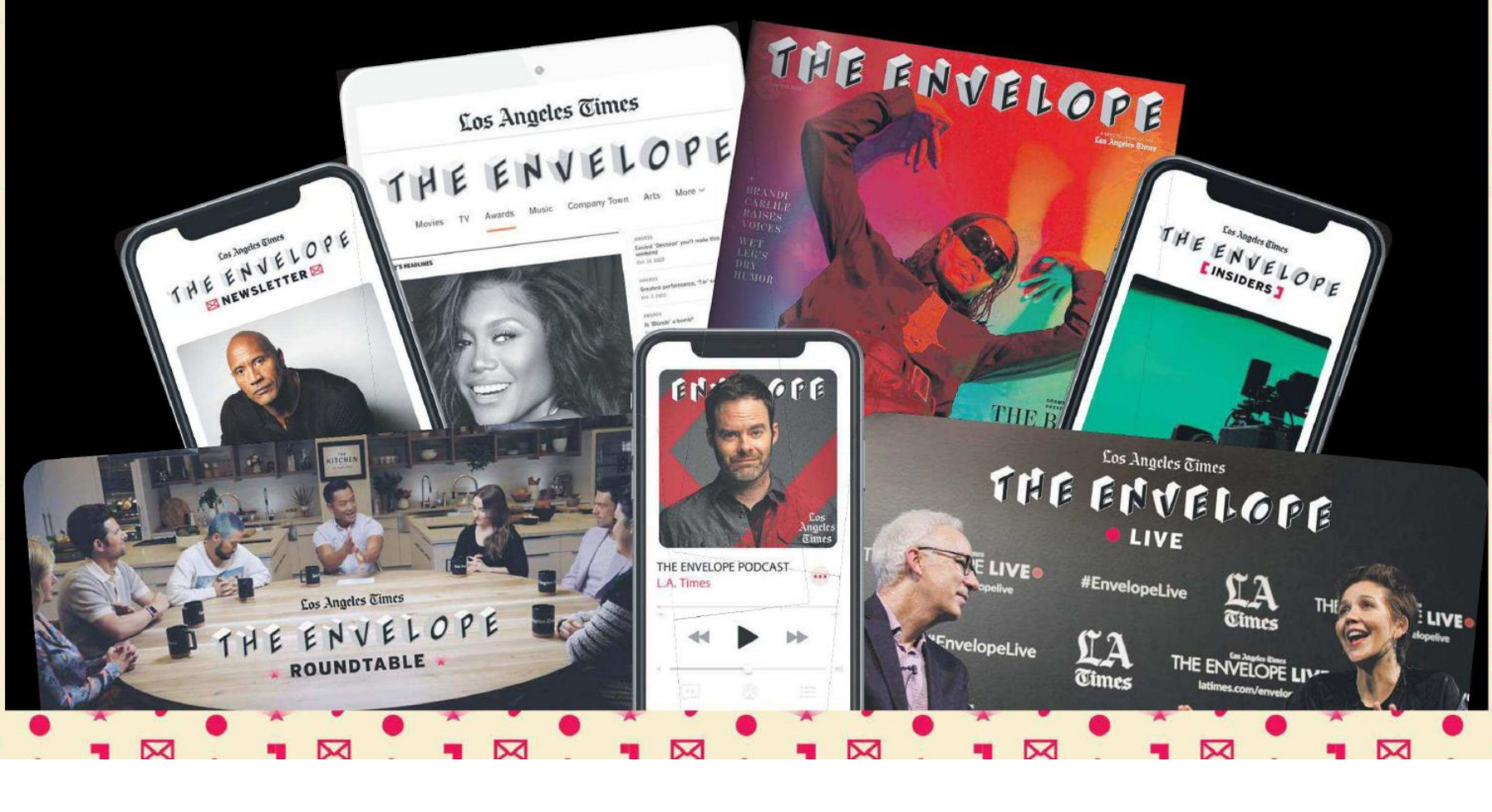


Pattern of violence often starts in the home

[**Violence,** from A1]
Star Ballroom on Tuesday. "I want to know why, I know our City Council and elected officials want to know why. The public wants to know why. I just don't know if we'll get that answer."

A clear answer may never emerge. But as mass shootings grow increasingly common, data show that an overwhelming majority have a connection to domestic violence.

That's because "individuals who are willing to hurt those closest to them are more likely to hurt other people in the future," said Lisa Geller, director of state affairs at the Johns Hopkins Center for Gun Violence Solutions and a scholar of mass shootings.

Geller's 2021 study showed that almost 60% of mass shooters targeted a current or former partner in their attacks — women who shared their surnames, their house keys, their kids. Still more had a history of domestic abuse. On average, such assailants killed more people and were more likely to take their own lives than other mass shooters.

"In my mind, domestic violence is just the gateway to everything," said Orchid Pusey, executive director of the Asian Women's Shelter in San Francisco. "It's the gateway to all the other forms of private and public violence."

Reports of domestic violence surged in 2020, and have been on the rise in Los Angeles and across California ever since. Yet domestic violence reporting among Asian Angelenos remains far lower than for other groups, data show. Those who work with survivors and perpetrators in California's Asian American Pacific Islander communities say those figures belie the struggle they see behind closed doors.

"If you say we run a domestic violence hotline, no one's going to call, because no one thinks they're a domestic violence survivor," said Debra Suh, executive director of the Center for the Pacific Asian Family. "There's a very different standard of thinking who a domestic violence survivor is."

Dr. Sun H. Lui, program director at Win-Win Relationship Learning Center in Arcadia, agreed. Survivors and perpetrators say, "this is my family issue," said the psychologist, who runs a court-mandated intervention program for abusers, one of the few Chinese-language options in the state. "They don't take it seriously until the neighbors call the police."

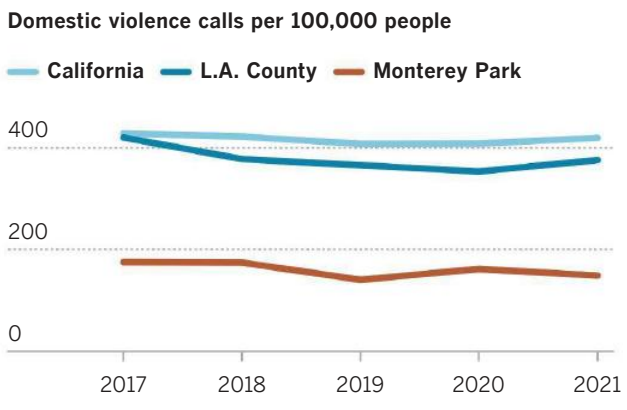
Cultural barriers can make it hard for some survivors to acknowledge abuse, or to seek help when they need it, advocates said.

To be sure, "Asian" is a broad umbrella encompassing many distinct ethnic groups, faith traditions, languages and cultures. Even Lui's linguistically and ethnically homogeneous Mandarin-speaking clients are split between highly educated engineers on one side, and restaurant workers and truck drivers on the other.

GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

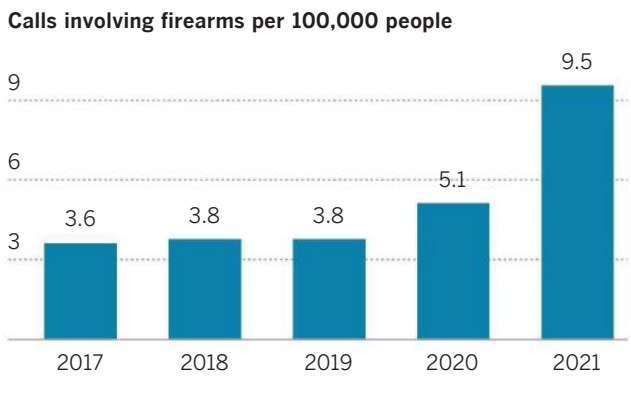
PRICILLA WONG on Wednesday shows a video of her dancing with Ming Wei Ma, the slain owner of the Star Ballroom in Monterey Park. Ma was one of 11 people killed when a gunman opened fire Saturday.

Monterey Park's domestic violence call rate is lower than the state and county rates



KATIE LICARI Los Angeles Times

Domestic violence calls involving firearms increased in L.A. County during the pandemic



California Department of Justice

KATIE LICARI Los Angeles Times

Yet practical barriers prevent many survivors from reporting abuse.

"There's a concept in white communities that leaving your spouse is the only answer, but for many in our community, it's not," said Manjusha P. Kulkarni, executive director at the AAPI Equity Alliance. "They don't want physical violence, but having to leave or having him jailed or deported does not make their lives better. If he gets deported, what happens to the family?"

Leaving an abuser can also trigger deadly violence, data show.

Even when it doesn't, it can upend lives in ways both obvious and subtle, universal and specific.

"To think that our communities will be reached by mainstream efforts is stupid," said Pusey, of the Asian Women's Shelter. "It's not because those efforts are bad, they're just also culturally specific. It doesn't match."

Divorce and single parenthood are both far rarer among Asian Americans than for other groups, increasing the stigma, she said.

"They want to keep their families together and they're not financially independent," said Candy Chou, who teaches classes in English and Mandarin at Win-Win, and works with survivors at Saddleback Church. "They don't want the stigma of coming from a broken family, so they try to stay in a relationship that really hurts them."

And while mothers of all backgrounds may agonize over leaving their children's abusive father, many of Suh's clients also fret over leaving their good school district.

"We've had a lot of folks who prefer to stay in a good school ... than to go into a shelter and move their kids," Suh said. "If [the kids] are younger, they're more likely to leave. But if they're in middle school, high school, preparing to go to college, it's harder."

Because reporting abuse to authorities is rarer among Asian Americans, advocates have devised innovative ways to reach women in danger, pulling them aside in women-only spaces at churches and temples, camping out at children's story hour at the library, and staffing tables at bridal fairs.

But outside advocacy circles, few appreciate the danger, they say.

"I've worked in this field over half my life. It's many, many small things that, if not stopped, can cause homicide," Lui said.

About half of women who die by violence in the U.S. are killed by the men they loved, data show. A 2022 analysis showed pregnant women are more likely to be shot to death by their baby's father than to die from sepsis, hemorrhage or hypertension.

While mass shootings are still a small fraction of gun deaths, the danger of domestic violence can quickly spill over onto first responders, neighbors and extended family.

"The responding officers will tell you, they hate going to domestic violence calls because they are very dangerous," Suh said.

Abusers who have a gun are five times more likely to kill their partners than those who do not, data show.

Suh said when she worked on the domestic violence hotline, about a quarter of the women who called were in homes with a gun. Now, she believes the percentage is higher.

"I would encourage folks who are in an unhealthy relationship and have a gun in the home to call and make a safety plan," she said. "There are ways to get safer, there are ways to get rid of a gun in a safer way, there are restraining orders to get rid of a gun, too."

A safety plan is a list of strategic and practical steps to help survivors predict, avoid and escape future violence. California is one of 19 states where a judge can issue a "gun violence restraining order" to temporarily take firearms from an alleged abuser, though L.A. lags behind some other counties in enforcing the rule.

Both tools can save lives, data show.

Although batterer intervention programs have been mandated by California courts for decades, the data supporting them are slimmer, and more mixed.

Lui and her colleagues don't know what happens to their clients after they leave the 52-week court-ordered program. But they say they see the effects of their work every day, as their clients learn to identify and express their emotions, and to reconnect with their partners and children.

"When [long-haul truckers] used to call home, they'll be like, 'What did you eat today?' 'Did you do your homework?' 'Did you listen to your mother?' And that was the end of conversation," Chou said.

"But today I've seen some of the truck drivers call home, they would tell their daughter, 'I miss you so much. You're beautiful.' 'Hey, I love it that you help your mother, I'm so proud of you.' Even just small talk to them is life-changing. They've never had that before."

Lui said she's seen a marked increase in referrals of Mandarin-speaking clients, who now make up the majority of their court-ordered domestic violence classes.

That's the result of more women calling for help sooner, she said. For younger generations, the tipping point may be a broken iPhone instead of a broken nose.

"Now women know that verbal and mental [abuse] is also domestic violence," she said. "They're more ready to call the police, and they know there is an interpreter, so they can call."

Acknowledging domestic abuse is one thing. Preventing it — and the potential for violence that spills from the home into the community at large — is another.

"We work with Alhambra Unified, working with high school students on healthy relationships, to try to prevent violence," Suh said. "We want to go upstream and prevent these things from happening."

For Pusey, the San Francisco advocate, prevention begins even younger.

"Your 'no' [as a mother] is the start of everything," Pusey said. "The most feminist thing you can do is teach your son to accept your no."

Dance studio shooter's motives remain a mystery

[**Motive,** from A1]
the two dance halls anytime during the last five years or having a personal link to any of the victims.

"As of today, based on interviews, they have not been able to establish a connection between the suspect and any of the victims," Luna said.

The investigation is in the early stages, and it could take weeks or longer to understand the full picture of what went wrong. The probe is also complicated by Tran's death. Roughly 12 hours after he was disarmed in the lobby of Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio and escaped, authorities say, he fatally shot himself in his van in Torrance as officers closed in.

"The problem is once the suspect is dead, it is literally conjecture on what their motive was," said Billy Hayes, a retired captain who oversaw the Los Angeles Police Department's Robbery Homicide Division. "It is like you are trying to piece together the pieces of a puzzle and you've got one crucial piece that's missing — the suspect."

Experts say investigators are likely looking for clues through computers and cellphones they seized from Tran's home along with information through interviews with people who knew him. Detectives have not yet uncovered any writings that revealed the shooter's motive, Luna said.

Monterey Park police recovered a motorcycle registered to Tran roughly a block from the crime scene, suggesting that he might have been leaving himself a backup vehicle if his van was not available, Luna said Wednesday night.

"We're assuming it was an additional getaway vehicle [to use] if he needed to," the sheriff said.

Tran shot 42 times in a "spraying motion" inside the dance studio and left a 30-round magazine, Luna said.

Luna said the gun Tran used in the attack, generically known as a MAC-10, was a Cobray M11-9 assault pistol that was purchased in 1999 in Monterey Park and not registered in the state of California. A Norinco 7.62x25-millimeter pistol was used in his suicide, Luna said. Police also recovered a Savage Arms .308 bolt-action rifle from Tran's Hemet home.

Investigators are continuing to comb through electronics, paperwork and other items recovered from Tran's home.

"We're looking at everything, every which way but loose, and again, with the the goal of trying to find a motive," Luna said. "And hopefully we can. Sometimes it's frustrating when something like this happens. It's so tragic, because we're trying to understand it. And it doesn't make sense. It really doesn't."

Det. Sal LaBarbera, a former LAPD homicide supervisor, said, "The 'why' is always the question the family desperately needs answered, along with the public via the news media."

But LaBarbera, who retired from the department in 2015, said motives can be hard to determine when a suspect is dead and hasn't left a paper or electronic trail detailing their thoughts.

Even when a case isn't going to be prosecuted, determining what led someone to violence can become a personal mission for investigators too.

"Even though it may have not been able to be used in court, I needed it, I wanted to understand why," LaBarbera said of his time working cases. "The investigators want to learn from each case ... if there's a way they can nip this in the bud from future cases, and it's something that can be shared, and taught throughout other agencies and the public."

There's a possibility the public may never learn why Tran carried out the killings.

Authorities also are probably trying to gather enough evidence to prove Tran was actually the gunman and there were no co-conspirators. Motive isn't required, but it's something investigators want to find if they can, Orange County Sheriff's Department homicide Sgt. Jack Ackerman said.

"I believe it's human nature in some ways to want to know why something happened or why somebody acted in a certain way," Ackerman said. "Unfortunately, in a lot of cases, we're not really ever able to give a satisfactory answer to make someone feel at peace with what happened or to have closure."

After the Las Vegas mass shooting in 2017, investigators spent more than a year combing through evidence before closing the case without finding a clear motive. The shooting, which killed 58 people attending the Route 91 Festival, remains the deadliest mass shooting in modern U.S. history.

According to an FBI report on that case, there was "no single or clear motivating factor" that drove the gunman's rampage. But that's not unusual, the report said.

"Active shooters rarely have a singular motive or reason for engaging in a mass homicide," the report said. "More often their motives are a complex merging of developmental issues, interpersonal relationships, clinical issues, and contextual stressors."

People who knew Tran described him as a lonely, embittered man for whom dancing at Lai Lai and Star provided a moment of reprieve from an otherwise unhappy life. But even that wasn't completely joyous.

A former friend of Tran, who was also his tenant for years, said he often complained about the instructors at the studios who he thought disliked him. It was a theory the man, who did not want to be named, said he thought was a "delusion."

"He always complained that the instructors were not friendly to him, kind of like he was alienated and they just disliked him," the man said. "That's what he thought in his mind, and I saw no evidence at all of it."

A law enforcement source with knowledge of the investigation told The Times that Tran likely snapped and decided to target those he felt hurt his well-being over the years. Investigators suspect he was having unspecified emotional problems that had recently been getting worse.

Two weeks before the shooting, Tran told police in Hemet that family members had tried to poison him many years earlier. He also claimed to have been the victim of fraud and theft. He promised to return with evidence but never did, according to police.

Tran was arrested in 1990 on suspicion of unlawful possession of a firearm, authorities said.

Authorities have said very little publicly about the shooter's possible motives.

Luna detailed his own questions during a news conference Monday: "Did he plan this the day of? Was it a week before? What drove a madman to do this?" he said.

Times staff writer Noah Goldberg contributed to this report.

BUSINESS

MARIO TAMA Getty Images

DEMONSTRATORS RALLY in April for AB 257, which would create a council with a mandate to set wages and other workplace standards statewide. A group funded by businesses is leading the referendum effort.

Referendum on fast-food labor law qualifies for ballot

AB 257, opposed by businesses, will be put to voters next year.

BY SUHAUNA HUSSAIN

A California law seeking to increase wages and improve working conditions for fast-food workers has been set aside for now, after state officials said an effort by major restaurant and business trade groups to overturn the law had qualified as a measure on next year's ballot.

The referendum seeking to overturn Assembly Bill 257 gathered sufficient valid voter signatures, the office of California Secretary of State Shirley Weber certified Tuesday.

The group of businesses backing the effort, called Save Local Restaurants, had until Dec. 5 to submit about 623,000 California voter signatures. The proponents submitted more than 1 million signatures, of which more than 712,000 were deemed to be valid, according to the secretary of state's office.

The announcement means the law, also known as the Fast Recovery Act, approved last year by the Legislature is suspended until California voters decide on the November 2024 ballot whether to repeal the law.

AB 257 sought to create a first-of-its-kind council of workers, corporations, franchisees and government representatives with a mandate to set wages and other workplace standards statewide.

Had the law gone into effect Jan. 1 as planned, the council would have had the authority to raise the minimum hourly wage for fast-food workers as high as $22 this year.

Labor advocates said the legislation could transform collective bargaining, creating a precedent in the U.S. for negotiating workplace standards. The coalition of businesses opposing the law, led by the International Franchise Assn. and the National Restaurant Assn., argued the law would saddle businesses with higher labor costs and increase food prices.

Fast-food corporations and business trade groups including In-N-Out, Chipotle, Chick-Fil-A, McDonald's, Starbucks and the National Restaurant Assn. donated millions to support the referendum effort, according to the nonpartisan Fair Political Practices Commission.

Save Local Restaurants launched its costly signature-gathering campaign to halt the law almost immediately after Gov. Gavin Newsom signed AB 257 into law on Labor Day.

The signature-gathering process was fraught. Service Employees International Union California, which cosponsored AB 257 and opposed the referendum campaign, alleged signatures were obtained fraudulently and filed complaints in October with the secretary of state and attorney general's offices urging action.

Mary Kay Henry, president of Service Employees International Union, said fast-food workers and the union were resolved to keep pushing AB 257. "No corporation is more powerful than half a million workers joining together to demand a seat at the table," Henry said in an emailed statement.

International Franchise Assn. Chief Executive Matt Haller said in a statement: "Fortunately, now more than 1 million Californians have spoken out to prevent this misguided policy from driving food prices higher and destroying local businesses and the jobs they create."

The Save Local Restaurants coalition did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Trump is allowed back on Facebook and Instagram

Former president's accounts reinstated after suspension for inciting Jan. 6 attack.

BY JAIMIE DING

Former President Trump will be allowed back on Facebook and Instagram after a two-year ban for inciting violence during the Jan. 6 attack on the Capitol, Facebook parent Meta Platforms announced Tuesday.

"The suspension was an extraordinary decision taken in extraordinary circumstances," Nick Clegg, Meta's president of global affairs, said in a blog post. "The normal state of affairs is that the public should be able to hear from a former president of the United States, and a declared candidate for that office again, on our platforms."

Clegg said the risk to public safety in January 2021 had "sufficiently receded" and Trump's Facebook and Instagram accounts would be reinstated in the coming weeks with "new guardrails in place to deter repeat offenses."

The decision will allow Trump access to his 23.3 million Instagram and 34 million Facebook followers as he seeks a return to the White House. He announced his 2024 presidential bid in November, and his campaign petitioned Meta to reinstate his accounts in a letter to the company Jan. 17, according to NBC News.

Trump was initially suspended from his Facebook and Instagram accounts Jan. 6, 2021, after Meta determined Trump had made several posts encouraging a mob insurrection at the U.S. Capitol during the counting of the 2020 electoral votes. After a review, the company's oversight board imposed a six-month deadline for lifting his suspension or making it permanent. Facebook responded by setting a two-year limit on Trump's suspension, at which point it would "assess whether the risk to public safety has receded."

This time around, Trump will face increased penalties for violating Facebook or Instagram's community standards based on the company's protocols on restricting accounts by public figures during civil unrest. Further content that violates Meta's standards will lead to a suspension of one month to two years, depending on the severity of the violation, Clegg said.

Since his removal from Meta's platforms, Trump has been posting extensively on Truth Social, a social media site he launched in February 2022.

"Facebook, which has lost billions of dollars in value since 'deplatforming' your favorite president, me, has just announced that they are reinstating my account," he wrote Wednesday. "Such a thing should never again happen to a sitting president, or anybody else who is not deserving of retribution!"

Trump was also recently reinstated to Twitter after being banned following the Jan. 6 attack, a decision made by Elon Musk via Twitter poll. He has not posted anything on the platform since his account was reactivated.

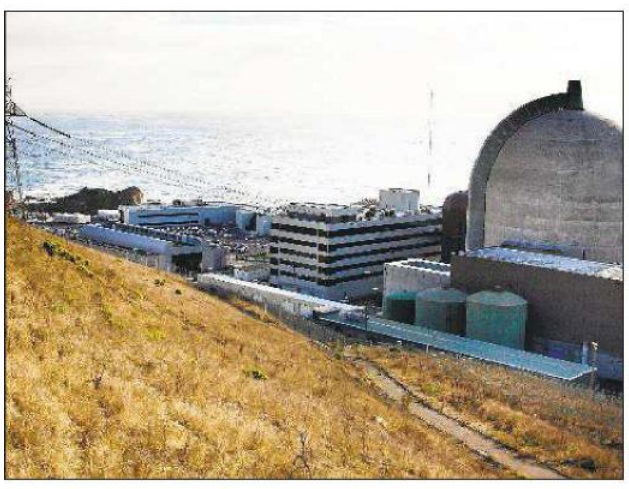
Trump's representatives did not immediately respond to a request for comment.

Facebook, a powerful platform for communication and fundraising, played a major role in Trump's 2016 presidential campaign. In 2020, a top executive wrote in an internal memo that Facebook's advertising tools were responsible for Trump's win and predicted it could bring about his reelection in 2020.

Facebook staffers embedded in the 2016 Trump campaign assisted the team with its digital operations, offering free consulting on ad strategy and targeting, according to a study from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill. The company has said the same services were offered to Hillary Clinton's campaign as well as other nonpolitical clients that are big advertisers on its platform.

Separately, political consulting firm Cambridge Analytica claimed to utilize the private data of millions of Facebook users to inform the strategy for Trump's 2016 campaign. Trump's campaign denied using the illicitly acquired Facebook data.

U.S. sharply rejects bid to delay closing Diablo nuclear plant



MICHAEL MARIANT Associated Press

PACIFIC GAS & Electric's Diablo Canyon nuclear plant in Avila Beach, Calif., is set for closure in 2025.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

In pointed language, federal regulators rebuffed a request Tuesday from Pacific Gas & Electric Co. that could have smoothed its pathway to securing a longer operating life for the Diablo Canyon nuclear power plant.

The decision marks the latest skirmish in a long-running fight over the operation and safety of the decades-old Diablo Canyon plant, which Gov. Gavin Newsom says should keep running beyond a scheduled 2025 closure to ward off possible blackouts as the state transitions to solar and other renewable sources.

In October, Pacific Gas & Electric asked the Nuclear Regulatory Commission to resume consideration of an application initially submitted in 2009 to extend the plant's life, which later was withdrawn after PG&E in 2016 announced plans to shut down the plant. Diablo Canyon is the last nuclear power plant operating in California and produces 9% of its electricity.

Under existing rules, the operating licenses for the sister reactors expire in 2024 and 2025, at which time they would be forced to close.

The turnaround came in September after the Democratic governor and Legislature voided the 2016 agreement to close the plant and opened the way for PG&E to seek a longer operating run from federal regulators.

The NRC staff bluntly rejected the idea of going back in time to resume consideration of the previous license-extension plan, saying that "resuming this review would not be consistent with ... the Principles of Good Regulation," referring to its guiding values, including independence and openness.

"It would not be effective or efficient for the NRC staff to start the review" without updated information on the plant's status and condition, the agency wrote.

In response, PG&E said it would produce a new application to extend the plant's life by two decades — the typical term — by the end of 2023, and had been planning for that possibility.

Diane Curran, an attorney for the anti-nuclear advocacy group Mothers for Peace, said the utility was attempting to "make an end run around a pretty well established set of regulations and policies."

"What PG&E is asking for is clearly inconsistent with the NRC regulations," Curran added.

Another separate fight is looming over PG&E's request to allow the plant to continue running beyond its current, authorized term while the federal agency considers the license extensions. The agency did not rule on that request.

Newsom's decision last year to support a longer operating run for Diablo Canyon shocked environmentalists and anti-nuclear advocates, since he had once been a leading voice for closing the plant, located on a coastal bluff midway between Los Angeles and San Francisco.

His turnaround also restarted a long-running debate over seismic safety at the site.

Construction at Diablo Canyon began in the 1960s. Critics say potential shaking from nearby earthquake faults not recognized when the design was first approved could damage equipment and release radiation. PG&E has long said the plant is safe, an assessment the NRC has supported.

Manchin pushes to delay tax credits for EVs

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Democratic Sen. Joe Manchin III on Wednesday moved to delay new tax credits for electric vehicles, a key feature of President Biden's landmark climate law.

Manchin said guidelines issued by the Treasury Department allow manufacturers in Europe and other countries to bypass requirements that significant portions of EV batteries be produced in North America.

The climate law, officially known as the Inflation Reduction Act, "is first and foremost an energy security bill," Manchin said, adding that the EV tax credits were supposed "to grow domestic manufacturing and reduce our reliance on foreign supply chains for the critical minerals needed to produce EV batteries."

Manchin's bid to delay the tax credits surfaced as Energy Secretary Jennifer M. Granholm and White House climate advisor Ali Zaidi visited the Washington, D.C., Auto Show on Wednesday to highlight the administration's efforts to boost electric vehicles and related infrastructure.

EV sales have tripled since Biden, a Democrat, took office two years ago, Granholm said. There are now more than 2 million EVs and 100,000 chargers on U.S. roadways, with more than $100 billion invested or pledged for EVs and their supply chains, including batteries, she said.

Although batteries and components have long been manufactured in China, "we're going to bring that manufacturing home," Granholm told reporters.

Granholm and the White House declined to comment on Manchin's bill, but the measure by the West Virginia lawmaker is unlikely to gain traction in the Senate, where Democrats hold a slim majority and have shown no inclination to reopen a bill they just passed on a party-line vote.

Tax credits of up to $7,500 per vehicle are intended to spur EV sales and domestic production of vehicles and batteries while reducing planet-warming greenhouse gas emissions.

Manchin's bill follows a decision by the Treasury Department to delay rules on battery contents and minerals until March, while allowing the rest of the program to be implemented Jan. 1. The Manchin bill directs Treasury to stop issuing tax credits for vehicles that don't comply with battery requirements.

"The United States is the birthplace of Henry Ford, who revolutionized the automotive industry," Manchin said, calling it "shameful that we rely so heavily on foreign suppliers, particularly China, for the batteries that power our electric vehicles."

Manchin, chairman of the Senate Energy and Natural Resources Committee, was a crucial vote in passing the climate law, which was adopted without support from any Republican in the House or Senate. He has said exemptions approved by the Treasury — including one that allows tax credits for EVs purchased for commercial use, even if they are foreign-made — undermine the law's intent to reduce U.S. dependence on foreign countries, including adversaries, and create jobs in the United States.

Senate Finance Committee Chairman Ron Wyden (D-Ore.) has said he has no interest in reopening the climate law.

John Bozzella, president of the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, an industry trade group, said Manchin's bill would only add confusion to an already complicated EV tax credit that many drivers — and even some car dealers — don't fully understand.

Computers as virus outbreak forecasters

[**System,** from A1]
like "corona," "pandemic," or "panic buying"; aggregated location data from smartphones that reveal how much people are traveling; and a decline in online requests for directions, indicating that fewer folks are going out.

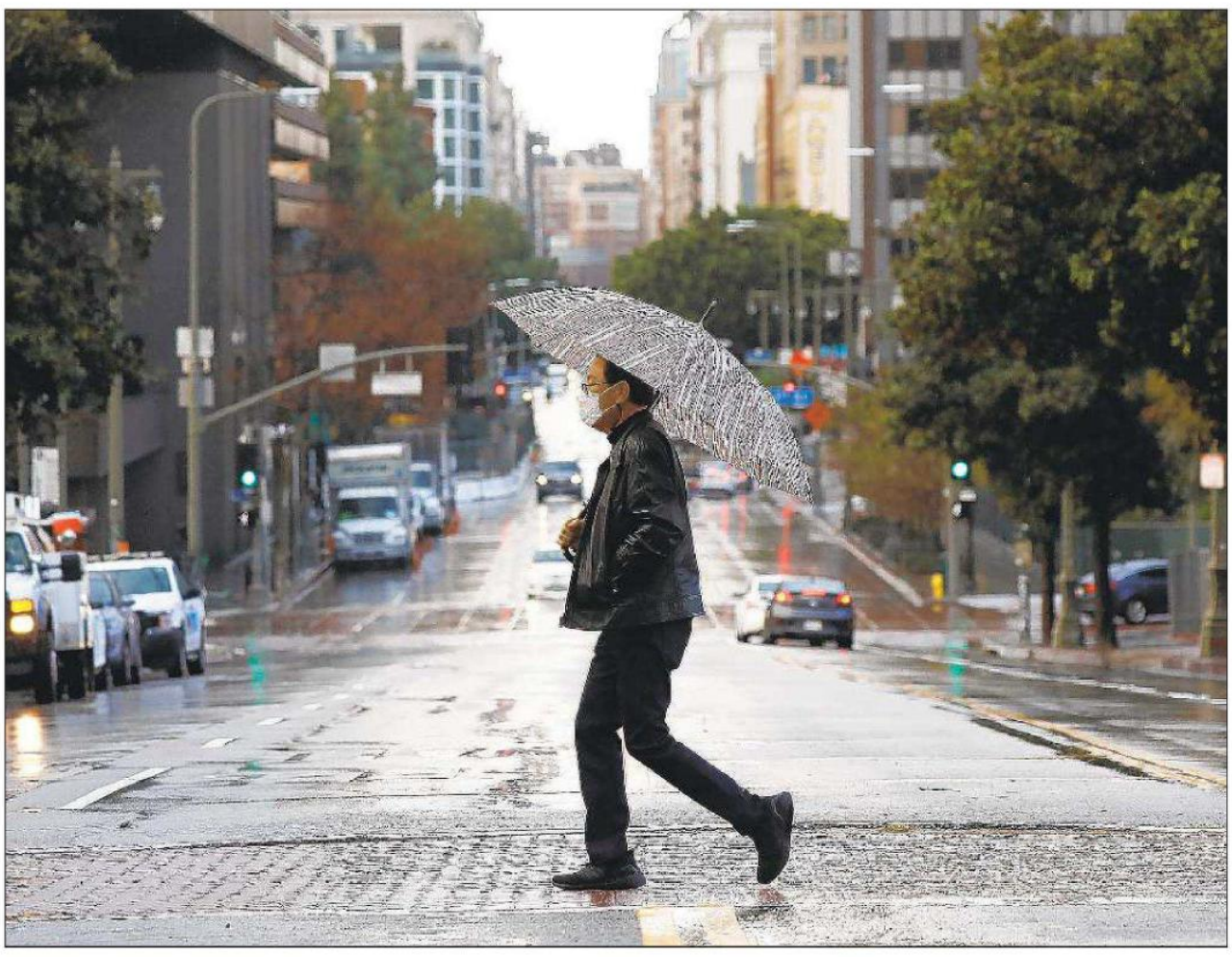
The resulting volume of information is far too much for humans to manage, let alone interpret. But with the help of powerful computers and software trained to winnow, interpret and learn from the data, a map begins to emerge.

If you check that map against historical data — in this case, two years of pandemic experience in 93 counties — and update it accordingly, you may have the makings of a forecasting system for disease outbreaks.

That's exactly what the team led by a Northeastern University computer scientist has done. In their bid to create an early-warning system for COVID-19 outbreaks, the study authors built a "machine learning" system capable of chewing through millions of digital traces, incorporating new local developments, refining its focus on accurate signals of illness, and generating timely notices of impending local surges of COVID-19.

Among the many internet searches it scoured, one proved to be a particularly good warning sign of an impending outbreak: "How long does COVID last?"

When tested against real-world data, the researchers' machine-learning method anticipated upticks of local viral spread as many as six weeks in advance. Its alarm bells would go off roughly at the point where each infected person was likely to spread the virus to at least one more person.



AL SEIB Los Angeles Times

RESEARCHERS hope to harness the power of machine learning to forecast COVID-19 outbreaks the way meteorologists forecast the weather. Internet data are key to such early-warning systems, scientists say.

Put to the test of anticipating 367 actual county-wide outbreaks, the program provided accurate early warnings of 337 of them, or 92%. Of the remaining 30 outbreaks, it recognized 23 just as they would have become evident to human health officials. Once the Omicron variant began to widely circulate in the U.S., the early-warning system was able to detect early evidence of 87% of outbreaks at the county level.

A predictive system with these capabilities might prove useful for local, state and national public health officials who need to plan for COVID-19 outbreaks and warn vulnerable citizens that the coronavirus is threatening an imminent local resurgence.

But "we're looking beyond" COVID, said Mauricio Santillana, who directs Northeastern's Machine Intelligence Group for the Betterment of Health and the Environment.

"Our work is aimed at documenting what techniques and approaches might be useful not just for this, but for the next pandemic," he said. "We're gaining trust from public health officials so they won't need more convincing" when another disease begins spreading across the country.

That may not be an easy sell to state public health agencies and the U.S. Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, all of which struggled to keep up with pandemic data and incorporate new methods of tracking the virus' spread. The CDC's inability to adapt and communicate effectively during the pandemic led to some "pretty dramatic, pretty public mistakes," Dr. Rochelle Walensky, the agency's director, has acknowledged. Only "changing culture" will prepare the agency for the next pandemic, she warned.

The CDC's lackluster efforts to develop prediction tools have not paved the way to easy acceptance, either. A 2022 assessment of forecasting efforts used by the CDC concluded that most "have failed to reliably predict rapid changes" in COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations. The authors of that assessment warned that the systems developed to date "should not be relied upon for decisions about the possibility or timing of rapid changes in trends."

Anasse Bari, an expert in machine learning at New York University, called the new early-warning system "very promising."

"The machine learning methods presented in the paper are good, mature and very well studied," said Bari, who was not involved in the research. But he cautioned that in a once-in-a-lifetime emergency such as the pandemic, it would be risky to rely heavily on a new model to predict events.

For starters, Bari noted, this coronavirus' first encounter with humankind has not produced the long historical record needed to fully test the model's accuracy. And the pandemic's three-year span has provided little time for researchers to recognize the "noise" that comes when so much data are thrown into a pot.

The CDC and state health departments have only begun to use epidemiological techniques such as phylodynamic genetic sequencing and wastewater surveillance to monitor the spread of the coronavirus. Using machine learning to forecast the location of coming viral surges may take another leap of imagination by these agencies, Santillana said.

Indeed, accepting early-warning tools such as the one developed by Santillana's group could require some leaps of faith too. As computer programs digest vast troves of data and begin to discern patterns that could be revealing, they often generate surprising "features" — variables or search terms that help foretell a significant event, such as a viral surge.

Even if these apparent signposts prove to accurately predict such an event, their relevance to a public health emergency may not be immediately clear. A surprising signal may be the first sign of some new trend — a previously unseen symptom caused by a new variant, for instance. But it also might seem so random to public health officials that it casts doubt on a program's ability to predict an impending outbreak.

Santillana, who also teaches at Harvard's School of Public Health, said that reviewers of his group's early work responded with some skepticism to a few of the signals that emerged as warning signs of a coming outbreak. One of them — tweets referring to "panic buying" — seemed like an errant signal from machines that had latched on to a random event and infused it with meaning, he said.

He defended the inclusion of the "panic buying" signal as a revealing sign of an impending local outbreak. (After all, the initial days of the pandemic were marked by shortages of staple items including rice and toilet paper.) But he acknowledged that an early-warning system that is too "black-boxy" could meet with resistance from the public health officials who need to trust its predictions.

"I think the fears of decision-makers is a legitimate concern," Santillana said. "When we find a signal, it's got to be a reliable one."

MARKET ROUNDUP

Big swings, little change for stocks

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Another roller-coaster day left Wall Street essentially where it began on Wednesday, after stocks veered on worries about how badly a slowing economy will hit corporate profits.

The Standard & Poor's 500 index finished virtually unchanged, but only after it tumbled to a morning loss of 1.7% and then roared all the way back. The Dow Jones industrial average erased a 460-point loss to finish up 9 points. The Nasdaq composite index fell 0.2% after coming back from a 2.3% drop.

Such big swings have been common on Wall Street as markets work through a couple of competing big ideas. On one hand, worries are rising about weakening profits and an economy bending under the weight of the Federal Reserve's interest rate hikes. On the other are hopes that the economy can avoid a severe recession and that cooling inflation will get the Fed to be easier on rates.

"There's this Jekyll and Hyde market day to day," said Anthony Saglimbene, chief market strategist at Ameriprise. "What narrative is driving the market: a soft landing or harder landing?"

In the morning, the latter was driving trading.

Microsoft helped to lead the way lower after giving a forecast for upcoming results that fell short of some analysts' expectations. They pointed in particular to expectations for slowing growth in its Azure cloud business.

Microsoft is one of Wall Street's dominant stocks because it's one of the largest, which gives its stock movements more sway over the S&P 500 than others. Not only that, but analysts also say Microsoft offers one of the best windows into the strength of corporate spending because of how many businesses use its software and services.

Major stock indexes

Index	Close	Daily change	Daily % change	YTD % change
Dow industrials	33,743.84	+9.88	+0.03	+1.80
S&P 500	4,016.22	-0.73	-0.02	+4.60
Nasdaq composite	11,313.36	-20.92	-0.18	+8.09
S&P 400	2,587.60	+6.47	+0.25	+6.47
Russell 2000	1,890.32	+4.71	+0.25	+7.33
EuroStoxx 50	4,148.11	-6.59	-0.16	+9.38
Nikkei (Japan)	27,395.01	+95.82	+0.35	+4.98
Hang Seng (Hong Kong)	22,044.65	+393.67	+1.82	+11.44

Associated Press

Microsoft fell as much as 4.6% before paring its loss to 0.6%. Its weaker-than-expected forecasts helped drag down other stocks in the cloud computing industry in the morning. Snowflake fell as much as 7.9%, for example, before it pared its loss to 0.9%.

Worries are rising that corporate profits are set to shrink broadly because of an economy bending under the weight of hikes to interest rates and still-high inflation. Analysts are forecasting S&P 500 companies over the next couple weeks will report their first drop in quarterly earnings per share since 2020, when the pandemic was crushing the economy.

"Analysts have been too rosy for the profit outlook for this year," Saglimbene said. "As these companies are reporting, they're giving very realistic and more downbeat assessments of what the demand outlook is going to look like this year, and there's the realization that economic activity is slowing, profit growth is likely slowing and maybe even turning negative. And I think stock prices are adjusting to that."

Texas Instruments fell as much as 3.1% despite reporting stronger profit and revenue for its latest quarter than expected. Markets were more interested in the company's forecast for the first three months of 2023. Its stock ended up paring its loss to 1.1%.

On the winning side was AT&T, which rose 6.6% after reporting a stronger profit than forecast.

Shares of electric-vehicle maker Tesla shook off a morning loss of as deep as 4% to rise 0.4% ahead of its earnings report, which arrived after trading ended for the day. That helped to steady the market, given Tesla's large size.

All told, the S&P 500 slipped 0.73 point, or less than 0.1%, to 4,016.22. The Dow rose 9.88 points, or less than 0.1%, to 33,743.48, and the Nasdaq fell 20.91 points, or 0.2%, to 11,313.36.

The yield on the 10-year Treasury, which helps set rates for mortgages and other economy-dictating loans, slid to 3.44% from 3.46% late Tuesday. The two-year yield, which moves more on expectations for the Fed, fell to 4.14% from 4.21%.

PEOPLE ON THE MOVE

Sean Kajcienski

PROFESSIONAL SERVICES

Sean Kajcienski, PCRK Group

Phoenix, AZ, January 16, 2023 – PCRK Group is pleased to announce it has named Sean Kajcienski, a successful veteran in franchising, as its new CEO. PCRK Group (PCRK) is Massage Envy's largest multi-unit franchisee, with 95 clinics and is a portfolio company of Trivest Partners and Three20 Group.

ME Massage Envy

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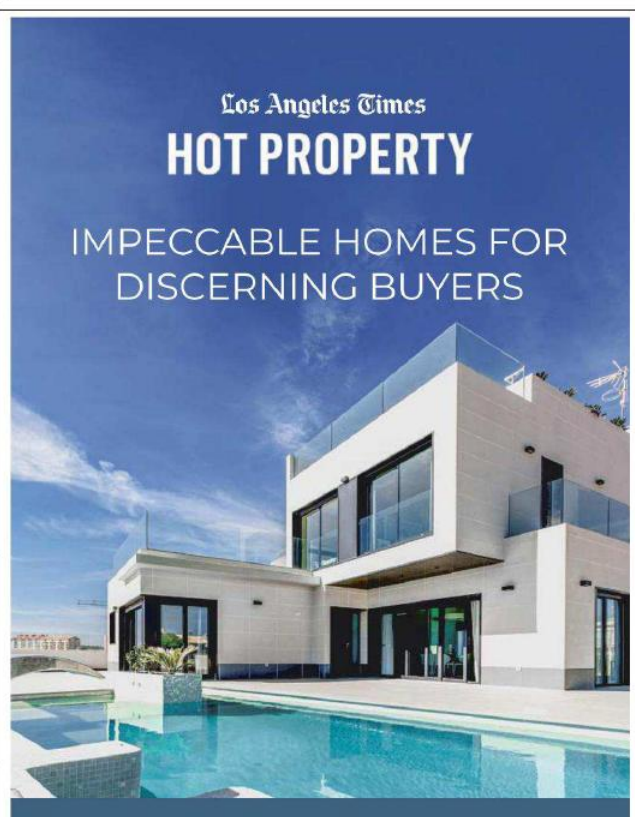

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OPINION

EDITORIALS

MYUNG J. CHUN Los Angeles Times

BACKYARD HOMES, or accessory dwelling units, such as this one in L.A., are booming, but duplexes allowed under Senate Bill 9 are not. At least, not yet.

Patience, please. Housing reform needs time to work

IT'S BEEN more than a year since California got rid of most single-family zoning — yet the radical change in policy has been decidedly unradical in practice. A new study found that Senate Bill 9, which allows up to four units on a single-family lot, has barely been used.

That's not a surprise, despite the angst that preceded the law's passage in 2021. Some homeowner groups and local elected officials vehemently opposed SB 9 and warned it would destroy single-family neighborhoods. But the law is more likely to gradually change communities by adding a little density and a few more homes over years, not months.

California can't afford to have housing production move too gradually, though. The state desperately needs new homes built to ease the housing and homelessness crises, so it's worth examining why more property owners haven't embraced SB 9. The law permits a landowner to build a duplex on a single-family lot, or subdivide the property into two lots that can each accommodate two units, which could be sold separately.

The study from UC Berkeley's Terner Center for Housing Innovation evaluated 13 cities where property owners seemed most likely to take advantage of SB 9 because of healthy real estate prices and a lot of backyard home construction. But in those cities, a total of 282 applications for SB 9 homes were submitted and only 53 approved.

For comparison, California cities permitted nearly 20,000 backyard homes, or accessory dwelling units, in 2021, according to state data. (2022 numbers are not yet available, though they are expected to be similar or higher.)

Los Angeles, which was one of the 13 cities analyzed, had the bulk of the SB 9 activity, with 211 applications for homes submitted and 38 approved through November. That is dwarfed by the 5,000 ADU permits approved by the city in 2021.

Why are ADUs booming but not SB 9 duplexes? They're similar housing types in similar communities, but it's easier to build an ADU now thanks to multiple state laws passed since 2016 that overruled local requirements for parking, setbacks and other criteria that made it difficult and expensive to build backyard homes. After SB 9 passed, some cities layered on the requirements — in some cases, to discourage duplexes. (Not Los Angeles, which is one reason the city had so many applications.) If lawmakers want to see more duplexes for sale or lease in single-family neighborhoods, they'll have to pass more laws streamlining the process and overriding local regulations that make it unnecessarily expensive and complicated to build.

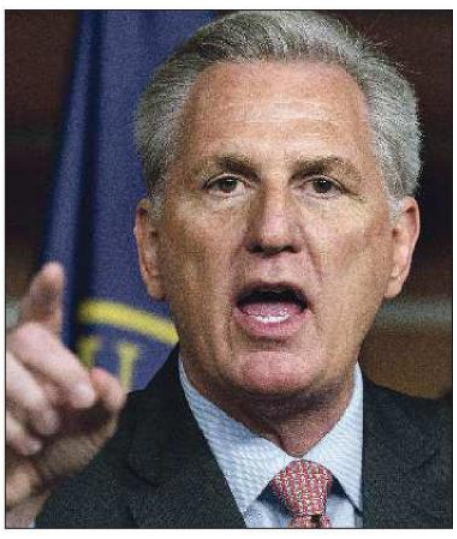
The slow progress so far doesn't mean the law has failed. SB 9 was never going to be a magical solution to California's housing crisis. It was (and is) an important step to lift restrictive zoning laws that have made it too hard to build enough homes to keep up with population growth.

Two-thirds of residential land in California had been restricted to single-family homes and had been off-limits to the development of backyard houses, duplexes and fourplexes that would be more affordable to middle-income and low-income renters and buyers. ADU laws and SB 9 removed those restrictions, opening up neighborhoods to more housing opportunities.

California's housing shortage was created over decades. Reforming the housing laws that fueled the crisis will take time as well. It's an essential culture shift for the future of the state that is not going to happen in just a year. Give SB 9 time to work.

GOP's brinkmanship on debt ceiling is dangerous

If new House Speaker Kevin McCarthy really cared about protecting the U.S. economy, he wouldn't hold it hostage.



JACQUELYN MARTIN Associated Press

SPEAKER Kevin McCarthy at a Capitol news conference Jan. 20.

AFTER HE WAS elected speaker on the 15th ballot, Kevin McCarthy promised that the U.S. House under Republican leadership would protect the national economy, saying that the party was committed to "stop wasteful Washington spending, to lower the price of groceries, gas, cars, housing, and stop the rising national debt."

But there is more to sound economic stewardship than controlling future spending. The government must also pay the bills Congress has run up in the past, even if that means further borrowing. McCarthy and his fellow Republicans need to recognize that reality and stop politicizing the issue.

Last week the Treasury Department announced that the U.S. had hit a congressionally mandated limit on how much the federal government could borrow to satisfy its financial obligations — the so-called debt ceiling. Secretary of the Treasury Janet L. Yellen is taking "extraordinary measures" that are likely to forestall a crisis until June. But Congress needs quickly to raise the debt ceiling to make it clear that payments — including to Social Security recipients — will be made.

Unfortunately, House Republicans are essentially threatening to hold an increase in the debt limit hostage to concessions on future spending from the Biden administration and congressional Democrats. Never mind that Republicans don't seem to agree on what sort of cuts they want to make, with some eyeing potentially politically perilous changes in Social Security and Medicare.

President Biden has insisted on a "clean" increase in the debt ceiling from the current $31.381 trillion, but he muddied his message by agreeing to meet McCarthy to discuss the debt ceiling among other subjects. McCarthy pointedly told Biden: "I accept your invitation to sit down and discuss a responsible debt ceiling increase to address irresponsible government spending" — seeming to assume that the two issues would be linked. (White House Press Secretary Karine Jean-Pierre issued a statement saying that Biden continues to believe that "raising the debt ceiling is not a negotiation; it is an obligation of this country and its leaders to avoid economic chaos.")

Meanwhile, Senate Minority Leader Mitch McConnell, sometimes the Republican adult in the room, seems reluctant to play an active role in resolving the impasse. This week McConnell unhelpfully said that any solution to the debt ceiling crisis "will have to come out of the House" and that it was "entirely reasonable for the new speaker and his team to put spending reduction on the table."

As a matter of raw politics, Republicans may think that they can use action on the debt ceiling to force the administration into a corner. There is some precedent for such a strategy. In 2011, the Obama administration agreed to a deal in which the ceiling was raised in connection with the adoption of legislation that placed some limits on spending.

But that doesn't justify brinkmanship in 2023, when policymakers are striving to head off a recession. Nor is it clear that McCarthy, whose speakership depends on the support of extremists in his conference, is in a position to credibly negotiate with the administration on any arrangement that would link an increase in the debt ceiling to future spending cuts.

Republicans in the House are free to advocate policies designed to address what they consider wasteful spending. But politicizing the raising of the debt ceiling is dangerous. Ideally, the ceiling would be abolished. As we have said before, raising the federal debt limit should be a routine, obligatory act by Congress to discharge the government's basic duty to pay its bills. But at a minimum Congress must raise the limit periodically to ensure that the government can borrow what it needs to meet its obligations.

If McCarthy and other House leaders aren't willing to endorse an increase, Biden must appeal to responsible Republicans in the House — and there are some — to put nation above party.

LETTERS

IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

FORMER City Councilman Jose Huizar, left, arrives at federal court in Los Angeles on Friday.

What we owe Eastside pols

Re "Let Huizar be the last of his L.A. political type," column, Jan. 21

Gustavo Arellano left some facts out of his column condemning the "Eastside politico." Here are a few:

Richard Alatorre persuaded Gov. Ronald Reagan to sign the first California Bilingual Services Act and fought to bring light rail to East L.A.

Art Torres exposed the forced sterilization of Latinas at L.A. County General Hospital and did away with eugenics laws in California.

Gil Cedillo made it possible for more than 1 million undocumented Californians to get driver's licenses.

Kevin de León passed transformative legislation to combat climate change.

Antonio Villaraigosa helped pass $40 billion in new funding for rail, road and highway projects in Los Angeles County.

Richard Polanco is the architect of the expansion of the Latino Legislative Caucus. California wouldn't be the progressive powerhouse it is today without his work.

The Times should thank these men, not imply they are criminals.

LETTIE IBARRA
Los Angeles

::

Former L.A. City Councilman Jose Huizar, who is pleading guilty to federal racketeering charges, is certainly not the first of his political type. And he definitely will not be the last.

A million here and a million there soon add up to some serious corruption. Huizar's distinction is that of being caught. Let the rest be forewarned.

EDWARD DUARTE
Los Angeles

::

While Arellano's column was informative, it was too bleak and read like a putdown of all Latino elected officials in Los Angeles.

Not once in this column did Arellano mention any of the hundreds of Latino leaders who have served the community honestly. A major oversight was not to mention Edward R. Roybal, who served on the L.A. City Council for 13 years and was a member of Congress for 30 years.

LUIS A. CARRILLO
South Pasadena

It's as good as 'I'm sorry'

Re "Biden should admit to his mistakes with documents," Opinion, Jan. 24

Jonah Goldberg identifies an obvious similarity in the Biden and Trump classified documents cases — namely, both cases involve the unauthorized possession of classified documents. So far, so good.

However, as to Goldberg's claim that both men share a reluctance to admit error, that is an unnuanced and problematic assertion. Admitting to a mistake can take a number of forms short of a public apology.

In President Biden's case, although he may not have publicly apologized for the error, there has been a timely investigation and full cooperation by the Biden team in the document recovery process.

In former President Trump's case, there has been obstruction and a refusal to cooperate with the National Archives and the Department of Justice. Hence the Mar-a-Lago raid.

In Biden's forthright response, there is a recognition of and an effort to correct a mistake. In Trump's case, there is no acknowledgment of a mistake, only persistent denials, concealment and disinformation.

ANDREW SPATHIS
Los Angeles

::

In 1953, I was posted by the U.S. Air Force to Oslo, Norway, and assigned to the U.S. documents office at Allied Air Forces Northern Europe.

These were dangerous days with intense saber-rattling by the Soviet Union and the North Atlantic Treaty Organization. Oslo was an "open city" with odd characters buying and selling everything from surplus military trucks to the contents of wastebaskets from NATO offices.

Our document office had explicit and strictly enforced rules. Similar to handling criminal evidence, a chain of custody was enforced, with any person handling any document required to sign for it and sign it back in upon return. The place and name of a person holding any document had to be recorded every 12 hours.

Recalling all those strictures from long ago, I can only imagine that the federal document classifying system in Washington is overwhelmed by volume of documents from persons who feel that every piece of paper needs to be classified as sensitive.

That, and a shortage of shredding machines.

CARLETON CRONIN
West Hollywood

::

I appreciate The Times for including Goldberg in its Opinion section. He is one writer who brings a bit of political balance to the table.

His statement about the classified documents problem was beautifully and fairly stated: "He had stuff he shouldn't have had in places they didn't belong."

Finally, someone who does not beat one side of the political drum ad nauseam.

DAVID WALDOWSKI
Laguna Woods

That's not trash. It's future food

Re "Los Angeles quietly rolls out curbside composting," editorial, Jan. 19

Your editorial did not mention that different cities have different composting rules. Some cities allow bones in the compost bin; others do not. Some cities allow compostable bags with the BPI symbol, but apparently Los Angeles does not.

I am 75 years old, and I enjoy knowing that my food waste is going somewhere useful. But, I have the time to think about what goes into the compost bin; I am sure many busy families do not. Deciding how and where to store leftover food until pickup day will take time.

Patience by city officials throughout the state will be required, and I hope the education efforts you mention for L.A. really do happen everywhere.

In the last few years, we've dealt with a pandemic and have been asked to cut back water and energy use. Now we are being told to do curbside composting. Most of us don't just need the guidelines; we need to be sold on how good this is for the environment and for all of us.

I'm sold on the concept, but others may need convincing.

SUSAN OSTROWSKY
Newport Beach

::

You state, "The city also needs to be very clear about what materials are allowed in the green bin."

Given the city's duplicitous and vague public ministrations about what should go into the blue recycling bin, I do not await clear, concise instructions.

The Times should do more by publishing and clarifying rules, and training users to maximize best-use trash disposal habits.

WILLIAM K. SOLBERG
Los Angeles

HOW TO WRITE TO US

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WALLY SKALIJ Los Angeles Times

MOURNERS PARTICIPATE in a vigil on Tuesday for the victims of the mass shooting on Lunar New Year's Eve at the Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park.

How older mass shooters differ from young assailants

Before the recent attacks in California, only six mass shooters since 1966 were over the age of 60.

By James Densley and Jillian Peterson

THE KILLING OF 18 people in California just two days apart — 11 in Monterey Park and seven near Half Moon Bay — are the latest horrors in America's long history of gun violence. But there is a factor in these mass shootings, and with the suspects, that stands out.

The median age of mass shooters in the United States is 32. Yet the man who shot dead 11 people in Monterey Park on Saturday before turning the gun on himself was 72 years old — the oldest mass shooter in modern American history, our records show. Meanwhile, the man who is alleged to have killed seven near Half Moon Bay on Monday was also older than most — 66, the third-oldest in history.

As criminologists, we have built a database of 191 mass shooters using public data. The shooters in our records date to 1966 and are coded on nearly 200 variables, including age at the time of attack. Our research shows that mass shootings — defined here as events in which four or more people are killed in a public place with no underlying criminal activity — have become more frequent, and deadly, over time.

Before these latest attacks, mass shooters were also getting younger overall. From 1980 to 1989, the median age of mass shooters was 39. Over the next two decades, it was 33. And from 2010 to 2019, it was 29.

Since 2020, the median age of mass shooters has come down to just 22 years old — mostly young men and boys who carried out their attacks amid the disruption of a global pandemic.

Ages vary by shooting location, the data show. Though mass shooters at offices, warehouses and houses of worship skew older, shooters at K-12 schools, colleges and universities tend to be younger — in large part because many school shooters tend to be current or former students.

Before the killings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay, just six mass shooters in our database were over the age of 60. The oldest was a 70-year-old who killed five people at an auto parts store in Kentucky in 1981. The list also includes the perpetrator of the deadliest mass shooting in U.S. history — a 64-year-old who killed 60 people at a 2017 music festival in Las Vegas.

The others were a 66-year-old who killed four people in 2001 at a manufacturing plant in Illinois where he used to work; a 64-year-old who killed four people in rural New York in 2013; a 62-year-old who killed four in 1997 in New Hampshire, including two state troopers and a judge; and a 60-year-old who killed six at a shopping center in Palm Bay, Fla., in 1987.

Nearly all of the over-60 perpetrators of mass shootings, before this week, were white men — just one was a nonwhite male. Both suspects in the Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay attacks were Asian.

Mass shooters over 60 also tend to have prior criminal records and to target their place of employment, or retail and outdoor locations in communities they know well. This explains in part why the victims in the most recent shootings are older than in other mass shootings — when shooters target people they know, those people tend to be a similar age.

What separates the older mass shooters from those in their 20s and 30s is that the younger shooters typically study previous mass shooters for inspiration and validation. Younger shooters also tend to communicate intent to do harm in advance. This leaking of details of the attack is often seen as a final cry for help. Younger shooters also tend to leave behind manifestos to communicate their anger and grievances to the world, the data show. Analysis of their expressed motives suggest they are seeking fame and notoriety for their actions.

None of the shooters aged 60 and above in our database did that. Instead, they tend to have experienced a recent stressor, such as a family conflict or debt. They are more likely to be motivated by legal, financial and interpersonal conflicts, rather than fame-seeking.

But all perpetrators of mass shootings, young and old, have some things in common. Their mass shooting is intended to be their final act, whether they die by suicide, are killed on scene, or sit and wait to be arrested like the Half Moon Bay suspect did. And, of course, they all have access to the firearms they need to commit these devastating acts.

JAMES DENSLEY is a professor of criminal justice at Metro State University. JILLIAN PETERSON is a professor of criminology at Hamline University. They are the authors of "The Violence Project: How to Stop a Mass Shooting Epidemic." This article was produced in partnership with the Conversation.

When aid-in-dying is illegal, predictable tragedies will follow

NICHOLAS GOLDBERG

WHAT'S THE point of charging Ellen Gilland with first-degree murder?

Yes, she killed her husband: She walked into his 11th-floor hospital room in Daytona Beach, Fla., last Saturday morning, pulled out a gun and shot him dead, police said.

But she did so at his own request.

According to Chief Jakari Young of the Daytona Beach Police Department, there was an agreement made between 76-year-old Gilland and her 77-year-old husband, Jerry, about three weeks earlier. He was terminally ill and they agreed that if his condition worsened, he wanted to die. Originally the plan was that he would kill himself with the gun, but when the time came, he didn't have the strength.

"So she had to carry it out for him," said Young at a news conference. "It's a tragic circumstance because it just shows that none of us are immune from the trials and tribulations of life."

In the early plan, she was going to kill herself too, Young said. But she didn't follow through.

To be sure, it was a bad scene at the hospital. There was a standoff. She wouldn't let the police into the room or drop the gun for several hours. Other patients had to be evacuated from the ward. Police no doubt feared for their lives, although the chief said that Gilland stayed in the room and that hospital staff and other patients were not threatened. But before she was arrested her gun discharged again and a bullet shot toward the ceiling.

I'm not suggesting that any of this was acceptable behavior.

But it is exactly the kind of thing that happens in a society where suffering or dying people can't legally end their own lives when they decide it's time. Florida doesn't have a death with dignity law that permits physician-assisted suicide for people with less than six months to live, as California does.

In California, Jerry Gilland probably could have gotten the certification of two doctors that he had only half a year left and he could have been allowed to end his life at home with medication — without the mess, the drama or the murder charges.

Instead, his wife is in jail, charged with first-degree murder and aggravated assault with a deadly weapon, according to the Daytona Beach News-Journal.

Assuming it's true that she killed him in accordance with his own final wishes, I hope she won't ultimately be tried for anything as serious as murder in the first degree.

But if she is, it wouldn't be the first time. In 1985, a retired Fort Lauderdale, Fla., engineer named Roswell Gilbert shot his wife twice in the head to end years of her suffering from pain and Alzheimer's disease. He was convicted of first-degree murder and sentenced to 25 years without parole — a sentence that shocked many supporters who felt he had "acted out of love," as the News-Journal put it.

Gilbert served five years and was granted clemency in 1990 at age 81. After his conviction he said: "I don't feel like I committed a crime at all. Justice is on my side, but the law is on somebody else's." Later he expressed some repentance.

In some subsequent cases, defendants in similar circumstances in Florida have been allowed to plead to lesser charges. Here's hoping that Ellen Gilland will be treated with some compassion.

> Ellen Gilland killed her husband, police say, but he was terminally ill and asked her to do it. Here's hoping she will be treated with compassion.

This is not the first time I've written on aid-in-dying, as it's sometimes called. I support extending California's "End of Life Options Act" beyond terminally ill people with only six months to live to include Alzheimer's and dementia patients and people living with chronic pain, if they choose it. I believe our law should be less restrictive than it is because, for some people, life has become so miserable or difficult that ending it is a reasonable and responsible choice.

And states like Florida should approve such laws as well.

But lest it seem as if I am all for people giving up when the going gets tough, let me also write briefly about the opposite: someone who rose to the challenge of a crisis, surmounted it and went on living.

That's Jonathan Raban, the British writer known for his travel books and essays. Raban died last week at age 80 of complications from a stroke he suffered in 2011.

The stroke left him able to use only one of his hands. But that didn't stop him from using voice dictation software to write his autobiography, which he completed and which is scheduled to be published in September.

His editor told the New York Times, "It is one of the most miraculous feats of writing I've ever witnessed."

Good for him for fighting on. Some people can overcome extraordinary setbacks and continue to pull satisfaction from life. Others cannot.

@Nick_Goldberg

Pence's document problem might help Biden politically

The appointment of a special counsel lumped Biden with Trump in the public's mind.

HARRY LITMAN

THE DISCOVERY OF classified documents in former Vice President Mike Pence's Indiana residence is a clarifying and pivotal event that throws into sharp relief conduct that in recent weeks has been lumped together.

Pence ordered the investigation of his home, which turned up some 12 documents marked classified, in the wake of the brouhaha over similar discoveries of classified documents at President Biden's Delaware home and former office.

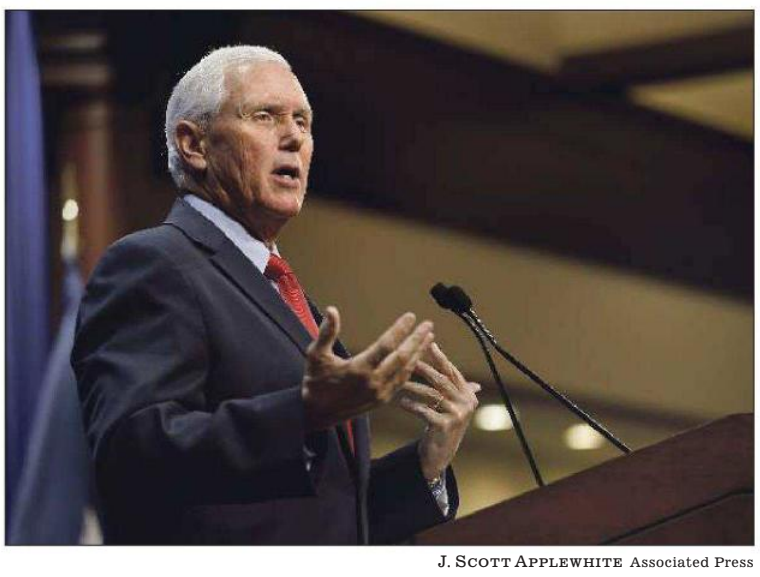
The Pence documents shed more light on a critical question: How easy is it for classified documents to find their way out of the White House and become mixed into the private papers of former government officials?

Anecdotal evidence already suggested that it's easy enough to do inadvertently, especially on the part of higher government officials, who rarely have a personal role in packing up their offices. Pence's experience strengthens that idea.

There is no reason to doubt the assertion by Pence's lawyer, Greg Jacob, in a letter to the National Archives that "Pence was unaware of the existence of sensitive or classified documents at his personal residence."

That explanation, of course, is the same as Biden's response to a rolling discovery of classified documents at his office and residence — to which conservative pundits and opponents have cried "scandal!"

Of course, there is a very bright line to be drawn between the unknowing conduct of officials like Biden and Pence on the one hand, and the intentional and likely criminal behavior of former President Donald Trump, who, from the available evidence, not only was aware that he had classified documents but purposefully spirited them away, and, more importantly, engaged in a 20-month campaign to stonewall legitimate efforts by the U.S. government to have them returned.



J. SCOTT APPLEWHITE Associated Press

MIKE PENCE speaks at the Heritage Foundation, a conservative think tank, in Washington in October.

This is not to say that Biden's and Pence's conduct is OK. As they both acknowledge, it is a potentially grave risk to national security to have classified documents walk out of the White House and be stored willy-nilly in some random place rather than in the National Archives. But this doesn't mean any such discovery is a matter for the criminal law.

There is not a shred of evidence that Biden even knew about the misplaced documents, much less that he criminally withheld them. Yet Special Counsel Robert Hur is now conducting a criminal investigation into Biden's case. Department of Justice guidelines require someone who has come under public suspicion, including the president, to be cleared or charged promptly. That goes for the president, and Hur is duty-bound, either to develop concrete evidence or shut his fledgling operation down.

The same, of course, goes for any investigation into Pence's documents. But it would be folly (and I think unlikely) for Atty. Gen. Merrick Garland to appoint a special counsel for Pence with zero evidence that criminal conduct has occurred.

The appointment of Hur immediately lumped Biden together with Trump in the public's mind. Now Pence's discovery might shift the politics, since it'll be hard for House Republicans to distinguish between the two cases. But we can probably be sure that Speaker Kevin McCarthy and Co. will somehow launch an argument that targets Biden while tacking around Pence.

Given what we've seen, there's no reason to believe the problem stops with Biden and Pence. As in Biden's case, where some of the documents go back to his years in the Senate, current and former members of Congress could also have classified documents where they shouldn't be. And for that matter, so can current and former executive branch officials.

Many of these individuals are now probably busy checking their garages and sock drawers. And that's a good thing. We need to get our hands around the problem and come up with reforms; and officials should do exactly as Pence and Biden did — if they find documents, turn them over immediately to the archives. And of course, if they knowingly withhold them, as Trump did, that willful conduct could subject them to potential prosecution.

We do have a serious problem with the retention of classified documents, but it is not a problem the criminal law can or should solve. We need to patch up porous controls, and we need to prosecute individuals who purposefully steal government documents and obstruct all efforts to get them back. From all that we know now, there is only one person in that category.

@HarryLitman

SHAE HAMMOND Pool Photo

LAW ENFORCEMENT officials allege the Monday shootings took place after Chunli Zhao "snapped" because of an unknown grievance.

Suspect could face the death penalty

[**Half Moon,** from A1]
executed a prisoner since 2006.

"This one is in a category that is way beyond anything we've ever dealt with," Wagstaffe said of the shootings.

"I'm sorry that we have joined the list of counties around this country that have had to deal with this. I always hoped that that would not be something that would occur in my career. But now that it's here, we'll step up. We'll see that justice gets done."

Authorities on Wednesday identified those killed in the shootings as Zhi Shen Liu, 73, of San Francisco; Marciano Jimenez Martinez, 50, of Moss Beach; Qi Zhong Cheng, 66, of Half Moon Bay; Ai Xiang Zhang, 74, of San Francisco; Jing Zhi Lu, 64, of Half Moon Bay; Ye Tao Bing, 43, whose residence was unknown; and Jose Romero Perez, a Mexican national.

Jose Romero Perez's younger brother Pedro Romero Perez was also shot and hospitalized, according to the district attorney's office. He underwent surgery but was stable as of Tuesday, authorities said.

The coroner's office worked closely with the Mexican and Chinese consulates, as well as the FBI, to identify the victims and notify next of kin, officials said.

As the sun set over Main Street in Half Moon Bay on Wednesday, a few mourners began to light candles at a memorial in Mac Dutra Park. People strolled the tony, shop-lined street, glancing over at the television crews filming the quiet scene.

The memorial shrine included candles, each bearing a victim's name, bouquets and cardboard hearts with messages written in Spanish and Chinese.

A placard referenced other mass shootings, including Sandy Hook, Colorado Springs and Monterey Park.

"We are with you," a cardboard heart read in Spanish.

Much remains unclear about the alleged gunman and his background. According to the district attorney, Zhao is from China and has been in the United States for "at least a decade."

Local authorities said they recognized him as a farm employee who had received food and other support from a nonprofit that assists farmworkers. A Half Moon Bay official said the suspect had worked and lived for at least three years at the scene of Monday's first shooting: California Terra Garden, formerly Mountain Mushroom Farm, on State Route 92.

At the driveway entrance to California Terra Garden on Wednesday, a young man who identified himself as the owner guarded the premises from his silver BMW, stopping other cars from entering the property.

Law enforcement officials had taken the crime-scene tape down around 3 p.m., according to the man, who declined to give his name.

Behind him sat a sprawling property of white greenhouse-like structures. Several hundred yards away, still taped off, was the group of trailers where the accused gunman was believed to have lived.

About two miles away, Concord Farms sat idle, its front gate open. There were no signs of movement or police activity at this second shooting site, and the police tape that had covered a rear barn was gone.

Next door, a backhoe shoveled dirt — its beeping and the whir of nearby traffic echoing across the eerily quiet scene.

The shootings rocked the normally tranquil community and added to days of sorrow and profound loss across California. Eleven people were fatally shot and nine others wounded at a Monterey Park dance studio on Saturday night, and one person was killed and four others wounded Monday night in Oakland during the filming of a music video.

Similarities between the shootings in Monterey Park and Half Moon Bay — both of which authorities allege were carried out by older men and motivated by some kind of personal animus — prompted speculation that the second may have been a copycat crime. But San Mateo County Sheriff Christina Corpus and Wagstaffe dismissed that theory.

"We believe the answer is no to that," Wagstaffe said.

More details on what prompted the tragedy in Half Moon Bay will emerge in the days and weeks ahead, but for now, many in the community are already turning their attention toward picking up the pieces.

San Mateo County Supervisor Ray Mueller, whose district includes Half Moon Bay, said Wednesday that the county was providing services to 17 families directly affected by the shooting.

That includes relatives of the shooting victims as well as co-workers who were present during the rampage, he said.

Those affected have received financial assistance and accommodation at hotels, he said. Officials are also planning to open a resource center with caseworkers who can assist with food, legal and mental health needs, as well as other aid as necessary.

Although not all these individuals lost a blood relative, Mueller said, "when asked if people were their family members, their response was, 'We worked together for years. We're all family.'

"They're grieving," he said. "And so we're learning as much as we can and also trying to provide as much support as we can to help them in this terrible time."

Lawsuits target restrictions on abortion pills

West Virginia and North Carolina are accused of violating FDA authority.

BY MATTHEW PERRONE

WASHINGTON — Supporters of abortion rights filed separate lawsuits on Wednesday challenging two states' abortion pill restrictions, the opening salvo in what's expected to be a protracted legal battle over access to the medications.

The lawsuits argue that limits on the drugs in North Carolina and West Virginia run afoul of the federal authority of the U.S. Food and Drug Administration, which has approved the abortion pill as a safe and effective method for ending pregnancy.

The North Carolina case was brought by a physician who wants to keep prescribing the pill, mifepristone. West Virginia is being sued by GenBioPro, which makes a generic version of the drug.

While the lawsuits in federal court target specific state laws, they represent key legal tests that could eventually determine access to abortion for millions of people. Medication recently overtook in-clinic procedures as the most common form of abortion in the United States.

The new litigation turns on a long-standing principle that federal law, including FDA decisions, preempts state laws. Few states have tried to fully ban an FDA-approved drug due to past rulings in the agency's favor.

But with the fall of Roe vs. Wade last year, there's little precedent for the current patchwork of laws governing abortion.

After the Supreme Court overturned the decision in June, some states' previously adopted abortion restrictions kicked in, and two states adopted new ones. Currently, bans on abortion at all stages of pregnancy are being followed in 13 states.

On top of that, 19 states — including North Carolina and West Virginia — have separate laws controlling how, when and where physicians can prescribe and dispense abortion drugs.

"West Virginia cannot override the FDA's safety and efficacy determinations, nor can it disrupt the national market for this medication," David Frederick, an attorney representing GenBioPro, said in a statement.

Legal experts foresee years of court battles over access to the pills.

North Carolina bans nearly all abortions after 20 weeks, with narrow exceptions for medical emergencies. Physicians there can prescribe abortion medication only after state-mandated counseling for their patients, and must dispense the drug in person.

The lawsuit, filed by Dr. Amy Bryant, an obstetrician and gynecologist, argues that such requirements contradict FDA-approved labeling for the drug and interfere with her ability to treat patients.

"We know from years of research and use that medication abortion is safe and effective — there's no medical reason for politicians to interfere or restrict access to it," Bryant said in a statement provided by the Expanding Medication Abortion Access Project, a group working on legal challenges to state laws.

ALLEN G. BREED Associated Press

THE FDA approved mifepristone in 2000 and began making it more accessible during the pandemic.

The office of North Carolina Atty. Gen. Josh Stein, who is a defendant in the suit because he's the state's chief law enforcement officer, was reviewing the complaint on Wednesday, his spokesperson Nazneen Ahmed wrote in an email. Stein, a Democrat who announced last week that he would run for governor in 2024, is an abortion rights supporter.

The FDA approved mifepristone in 2000 to end pregnancy in combination with a second drug, misoprostol. The combination is approved for use up to the 10th week of pregnancy.

For more than 20 years, the FDA limited dispensing of the drug to a subset of specialty offices and clinics due to safety concerns. In rare cases, the drug combination can cause excess bleeding, requiring emergency care. But during the COVID-19 pandemic, the agency has repeatedly eased restrictions and expanded access, increasing demand even as state laws make the pills harder for many to get.

In late 2021, the agency eliminated the in-person requirement for the pill, saying a new scientific review showed no increase in safety complications when patients take the drug at home. That change also permitted the pill to be prescribed via telehealth appointments and shipped by mail-order pharmacies.

This month the FDA further loosened restrictions by allowing brick-and-mortar pharmacies to dispense the drug, provided they undergo certification.

That change was made at the request of drug manufacturers GenBioPro and Danco Laboratories, which makes the brand Mifeprex.

In its West Virginia lawsuit, GenBioPro argues that state laws interfere with drug regulations crafted by the FDA, which has sole authority over the approval and regulation of drugs in the U.S.

West Virginia's law prohibits most abortions, with some exceptions for rape and incest victims and in cases of life-threatening medical emergencies and nonviable pregnancies. The near-total ban, signed into law in September, supersedes earlier laws on abortion pill access.

"The ban and restrictions make it impossible for GenBioPro to market and distribute mifepristone in West Virginia in accordance with FDA's requirements," the company states in its suit, filed in the state's southern federal district.

West Virginia Atty. Gen. Patrick Morrisey said he would defend the new abortion law.

"While it may not sit well with manufacturers of abortion drugs, the U.S. Supreme Court has made it clear that regulating abortion is a state issue," he said in a statement.

Opponents of abortion have filed their own lawsuits seeking to halt use of the pill, including a Texas suit arguing that the FDA overstepped its authority in approving the medication. Antiabortion groups vowed Wednesday to support state abortion limits.

"We stand with the people of North Carolina and West Virginia against the abortion lobby's reckless push to mandate abortion on demand in every state," said Marjorie Dannenfelser of the group Susan B. Anthony Pro-Life America.

Mifepristone dilates the cervix and blocks the effects of the hormone progesterone, which is needed to sustain a pregnancy.

Misoprostol, a drug also used to treat stomach ulcers, is taken 24 to 48 hours later. It causes the uterus to cramp and contract, which causes bleeding and expels pregnancy tissue.

Perrone writes for the Associated Press.

GOP probes Hunter Biden's art sales

House Republicans push for info as they ramp up investigation into president's family.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

WASHINGTON — House Republicans renewed their investigation Wednesday into the art dealings of Hunter Biden, pushing for details on who is purchasing his work as part of the party's long-promised probe into President Biden and his family.

Rep. James Comer (R-Ky.), new chairman of the House Oversight Committee, asked for a transcribed interview with Georges Bergès, the art dealer who has been showcasing Hunter Biden's work in New York and Los Angeles galleries since 2021. He requested communications between the gallery and the White House, citing Republican concerns the younger Biden is trading in on his father's name.

"Despite being a novice artist, Hunter Biden received exorbitant amounts of money selling his artwork, the buyers' identities remain unknown, and you appear to be the sole record keeper of these lucrative transactions," Comer said in a letter to Bergès.

The White House counsel's office and a representative for Hunter Biden did not immediately return requests for comment.

The House Oversight Committee's request comes as Comer and Republicans ramp up their investigation into members of the Biden family and their business dealings. The Republicans have requested information from Bergès before, but those requests were ignored when the GOP was in the minority.

Biden aides have derided Republicans' focus on Hunter Biden, who has never held a position in the White House or presidential campaign, as hypocritical. They point to the president's predecessor, Donald Trump, who had a daughter and son-in-law working for him in the White House and often spent taxpayer dollars at his own properties.

The Biden White House said it established an arrangement in the early days of the presidency that allows Hunter Biden to sell his artwork without knowing the identity of the purchaser.

Officials said it would avoid any potential ethical entanglements with the sales.

Under the arrangement, a private art gallery owner sets prices for Hunter Biden's work and handles all bidding and sales, but does not share any information about buyers or prospective buyers with Hunter or anyone in the administration. Bergès also agreed to reject any offer that he deemed suspicious or that came in over the asking price.

The prices for Hunter Biden's art, according to Comer, range from $55,000 to $225,000 apiece at the SoHo gallery where his latest collection debuted this month. His paintings often depict abstract flowers and trees with the use of a mixture of ink and acrylic on metal.

"It is concerning that President Biden's son is the recipient of anonymous, high-dollar transactions — potentially from foreign buyers — with no accountability or oversight" other than Bergès, Comer wrote in the letter.

Hunter Biden's taxes and foreign business work are already under federal investigation by a federal grand jury in Delaware. And his membership on the board of a Ukrainian energy company and his efforts to strike deals in China have long raised questions about whether he traded on his father's public service.

The president has said he has never spoken to his son about foreign business. There are no indications that the federal investigation involves the president.

Photographs by GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

"I HAVE had the unfortunate experience of visiting many of these sites," Vice President Kamala Harris said during a Wednesday visit to Star Ballroom Dance Studio in Monterey Park, where 11 people were gunned down amid a Lunar New Year celebration.

Harris joins grieving community

Vice president visits nightly gathering at Monterey Park studio where 11 were killed

BY JULIA WICK, JEONG PARK, SEEMA MEHTA, CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ AND SUMMER LIN

On Wednesday, Vice President Kamala Harris joined in what has become a nightly ritual in Monterey Park, as hundreds gathered in front of the dance studio where 11 people were gunned down amid Lunar New Year revelry Saturday night.

Weaving through a crowd that included dozens of reporters, people carried lighted candles and stopped in front of 11 flower memorials, seven of them adorned with photos of the victims. They chalked Chinese characters reading "*tiao duo yi zhi wu*," or "one more dance," and other messages outside Star Ballroom Dance Studio.

MEMORIALS outside the dance studio honor victims Chia Ling Yau, left, and Xiujuan Yu. "It still doesn't feel real at times," said Kathleen Fong, Yu's niece.

They left notes.

"Dear Andy, thanks for your love for dancing," read one letter in front of a memorial for Yu-Lun Kao, 72.

Harris placed a bouquet of yellow lilies and palm fronds among the other memorials. She looked at the photos of the victims, pausing in front of each one.

She offered her condolences on behalf of President Biden, First Lady Jill Biden and Second Gentleman Doug Emhoff.

"I have had the unfortunate experience of visiting many of these sites," Harris said, noting that more than 40 mass killings have already taken place in the U.S. this year.

The vice president urged Congress to act on passing "reasonable gun safety laws."

"Can they do something? Yes," Harris said when asked about the possibility of action from the legislative branch. "Should they [See **Memorial,** B2]

RENTER BREAK TO LAST LONGER

L.A. County board votes to extend eviction protections through March.

BY REBECCA ELLIS

With Los Angeles County's pandemic eviction moratorium set to lapse in days, the Board of Supervisors has voted to extend the countywide renters protections once more.

The moratorium will now expire at the end of March. This, county leaders say, will be the last time they push the end date.

The moratorium, first put in place at the COVID-19 pandemic's outset, was initially set to end Jan 31. With some on the board still worried about the lingering financial impacts of the pandemic, county leaders voted Tuesday to extend the countywide moratorium through March 31.

"COVID is not over. People are still getting sick. They're still out of work," said Supervisor Lindsey Horvath, the board's sole renter, who spearheaded the motion. "They're still losing jobs and unfortunately still dying from COVID."

Under the moratorium, landlords cannot evict low-income tenants who say they were financially harmed by COVID-19 and can't pay rent.

Through the pandemic, the moratorium had acted as a safety net for renters across L.A. County. It applied to all unincorporated areas and cities that did not have their own moratorium in place.

On Feb. 1, the city of Los [See **Eviction,** B5]

Records in Pelosi case will go public

Judge approves news media's request for release of 911 call and other evidence.

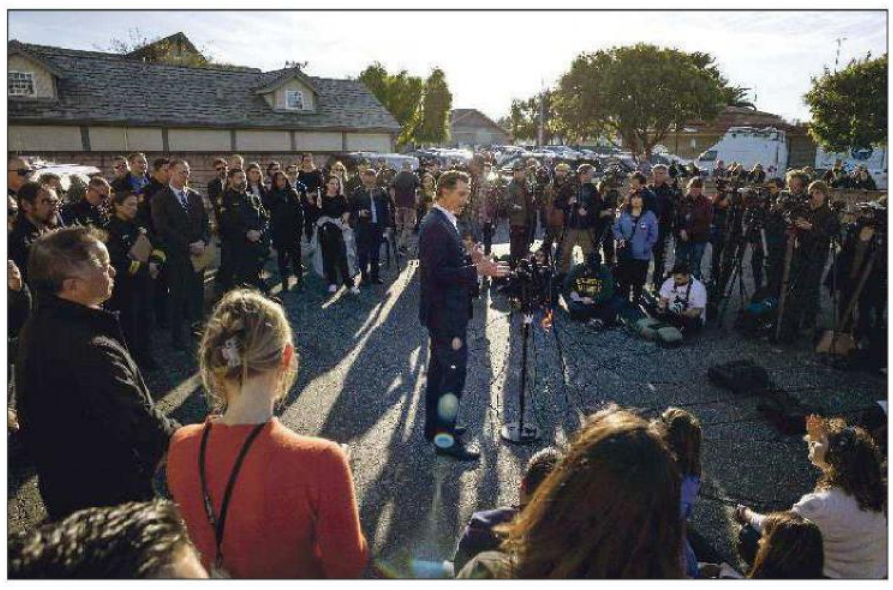
BY HANNAH WILEY

SAN FRANCISCO — A California judge on Wednesday ordered the release of pivotal evidence related to the October attack on former U.S. House Speaker Nancy Pelosi's husband, including a recording of his 911 call and police body-camera footage.

David DePape is accused of breaking into the lawmaker's San Francisco home one early morning in late October and attacking Paul Pelosi with a hammer, fracturing the 82-year-old's skull and causing other serious injuries.

A coalition of at least a dozen news organizations, including The Times, asked the court to order the San Francisco district attorney's office to release copies of the records already submitted into evidence, arguing that the news media and public had a right to review them.

DePape's lawyers opposed making that evidence public, saying it could jeopardize his right to a fair trial [See **Pelosi,** B4]



AARON KEHOE Associated Press

IN HALF MOON BAY on Tuesday, Gov. Gavin Newsom said Republicans have fought gun safety reform "every step of the way. ... Shame on them."

CAPITOL JOURNAL

Where is GOP as the state reels from mass shootings?

GEORGE SKELTON
IN SACRAMENTO

Gov. Gavin Newsom has spoken more eloquently than anyone else about the three California mass shootings that occurred in rapid sequence, killing at least 24.

"What the hell is going on?" the longtime gun control advocate asked simply Tuesday in Half Moon Bay, where a 66-year-old farmworker was accused of fatally shooting seven co-workers and wounding another because of some grievance.

"Only in America. ... The absurdity."

Yes, America is certainly not great on gun deaths, and never will be as long as we're blocked from much-needed national firearms regulations by Republicans.

Among the major industrialized nations, the United States has by far the highest gun homicide rate. No other country is anywhere close. That's because other nations tightly restrict access to firearms.

America can't do that because of the 2nd Amendment, but we could do a much better job nationally than we're doing.

UCLA law professor Adam Winkler, who specializes in gun law, winces whenever politicians and pundits crow about California's tough gun restrictions.

"We need to stop saying things like, 'California has strict gun laws,'" he says. "That's only in comparison to Texas and Mississippi. Compared to England, Japan and [See **Skelton,** B5]

Trial begins in boy's abuse, death

10-year-old Anthony Avalos' mother and her boyfriend could receive life in prison.

BY JAMES QUEALLY

The last four years of Anthony Avalos' life were nearly constant torture.

The Antelope Valley boy would spend hours locked in a room with no access to food, water or a bathroom. His body was racked with welts produced by the lashes of belts and electrical cables. Wounds on his knees would scab over and reopen after he was forced to kneel on uncooked rice and concrete. His blood dotted the room where he slept.

Anthony's mother, Heather Barron, and her boyfriend, Kareem Leiva, sat stoically in a downtown Los Angeles courtroom Wednesday as prosecutors opened the trial against them by outlining the horrific abuse the couple are accused of inflicting on the boy, who ultimately died of head trauma in 2018.

They have pleaded not guilty to torturing and murdering Anthony and to abusing two of Barron's other children. If convicted of all charges, they face life in prison.

Anthony's death exposed the failure of Los Angeles County's social services system to protect the 10-year-old and his siblings despite more than a dozen reports from relatives alleging Leiva and Barron were abusive.

Now, the start of the trial 4½ years later has turned the focus squarely on the tragedy of the boy's short, pain-filled life and the people accused of ending it so violently.

"She's been torturing her kids for a long period of time," L.A. County Deputy Dist. Atty. Saeed Teymouri said of Barron on Wednesday. "Once defendant Leiva came into the picture, it turned deadly."

Although Leiva admitted to severely abusing the boy in a recorded interview with [See **Avalos,** B3]

Teachers strike at UCLA's elite Lab School
Faculty at the pre-K through sixth-grade campus say labor practices, not salaries, are the issue. **B3**

4.2 quake hits off Malibu coast
The 2 a.m. temblor and aftershocks were felt as far north as Oxnard and as far south as Long Beach. **B3**

Lottery **B2**

SPORTS ON THE BACK: High school freshman has a special link to Kobe Bryant. **B10**

In Monterey Park visit, Harris urges action

[**Memorial,** from B1]
do something? Yes. Will they do something? That is where we all must speak up and speak to our elected representatives about what we have a right to expect that they will do in the interest of the safety and the security and the well-being of people like those whose lives were ended here."

Harris left the studio to meet with the families of six of the victims for more than two hours.

Meanwhile, hundreds continued to congregate in front of the dance studio and its parking lot.

Corrine Martin, 69, said that she did not know anyone affected by the shooting but that the attack had reminded her of her daughter, who died a year ago.

She said she hoped the tragedy would bring an outpouring of support for the community of Monterey Park.

"I am pretty sure people will recognize Monterey Park," she said. "People will come to enjoy the food. Maybe people will come to the studio to dance."

Robert, an Arcadia resident who declined to provide his last name, came to the vigil to pay his respects and remember his "best friend," Wen-Tau Yu, 64, who died in the shooting.

Though they knew each other for only a year, Yu became "our group leader," Robert said.

Yu was talkative, Robert said, and their dinner conversation was filled with any and all subjects: Dancing, jobs, families, ladies.

Robert said he watched a video from inside the ballroom minutes before the shooting. Yu was near the side door. Two women next to him escaped through that door, but Yu didn't.

"I think he tried to save lives," Robert said.

A pastor led the crowd in a mediation session. A monk recited a Buddhist prayer. Jason Chu performed a song.

"We can show up for one another. We can show up with open hearts," Chu said, his voice rising.

"If we have to start with the reality of the tragedy around us, let's start the year with the reality of community and of care and of humanity around us."

But to longtime visitors of the dance studio, that community was missing the bright star around whom it had long orbited.

"Mr. Ma was always sitting there, smiling for us," Marlene Yu said as she motioned past an overflowing pile of flowers toward the studio's locked front gate.

Ming Wei Ma, 72, ran the studio and was beloved by his students.

During her seven years of lessons at the studio, that door would usually be open, Yu said. Ma kept a chair just inside the gate for his one-man welcoming committee.

GARY CORONADO Los Angeles Times

DURING a visit to the site of the Monterey Park mass shooting, Vice President Kamala Harris urged Congress to act on passing "reasonable gun safety laws." Harris later met with the families of six of the victims.

Cindy Mathews, another student of Ma's who wore her dance clothes Wednesday night, also recalled his constant presence outside the studio, smoking just inside the gate or standing at the corner and always joking around.

Kevin Leung, who spoke at Wednesday's vigil holding a long candle, said Ma had given his kung fu class a home for eight years.

Many venues said no, but "Mr. Ma" gave Leung the space to teach, he told the crowd.

"They really took us in to be part of the family," he said.

Cindy Wu said she first met Ma six or seven years ago when she was looking for an ethnic performance group for a community event.

"When you see the happiness of everybody dancing, it really shows the incredible happiness he bought to the community," she told the crowd.

Former student Yu, standing by the studio's front gate, said, "His voice, his sharing, caring, loving — it's all gone." She brought her hand to her face as she began to weep.

Yu frequently took Latin dance classes with Mymy Nhan, 65, who was killed in the massacre. Nhan was quiet but always smiling, and she would often bring fruit or cookies to share with her fellow students after class.

"I can't believe it," Yu said as she recalled those recent evenings.

Another of the shooting victims, Xiujuan Yu, had never been to the studio before Saturday night, but she accepted an invitation from two friends to celebrate the Lunar New Year there.

Yu, 57, emigrated from Guangdong province in China in the 2010s to start a new life with her family in the United States. She and her husband settled in Temple City but spent a lot of time in nearby Monterey Park.

"A lot of immigrants from China go to this area because there's a central hub and there's already a community built here," Yu's niece, Kathleen Fong, 22, told The Times in an interview. "There's a strong sense of togetherness here."

Monterey Park, known as America's first suburban Chinatown, became a "safe haven" for the family, Fong said.

That all changed Saturday night.

Yu attended the dance hall's Lunar New Year event with two of her friends and had arrived shortly before the shooting began, according to Fong. One of Yu's friends went to the bathroom. When she returned, the friend found that Yu and Lilan Li, 63, had been shot. Yu was lying on the floor and Li was slumped in a chair.

Fong said Yu's husband read about the shooting online and started frantically calling Yu, but she didn't pick up. He contacted Fong's parents to ask for their help to find her. The three of them drove to different hospitals looking for Yu. Eventually, they ended up at the Langley Center, which was converted by the city into a crisis response center, seeking information about their loved one.

The family found out Monday that Yu had died at the studio and never made it to the hospital.

"I don't know if she even spent an hour there, maybe less than an hour," Fong said. "It really is a feeling of wrong place, wrong time. It still doesn't feel real at times."

Lottery results

For Tuesday, Jan. 24, 2023

Mega Millions
Mega number is **bold**

33-41-47-50-62—**Mega 20**
Jackpot: $31 million

California winners per category:

	No. of winners	Amount of prize(s)
5 + Mega	0	—
5	0	—
4 + Mega	3	$5,409
4	32	$570
3 + Mega	97	$214
3	2,301	$10
2 + Mega	2,062	$10
1 + Mega	15,672	$4
Mega only	39,517	$2

Winning jackpot ticket(s) sold in other states: 1 (Mass.)

For Wednesday, Jan. 25, 2023

SuperLotto Plus
Mega number is **bold**

2-17-20-37-41—**Mega 9**
Jackpot: $27 million

Powerball
Powerball number is **bold**

9-17-20-38-40—**Powerball 18**
Jackpot: $526 million

Fantasy Five: 12-15-17-26-39

Daily Four: 5-6-1-7

Daily Three (midday): 7-0-8

Daily Three (evening): 8-9-3

Daily Derby:
(7) Eureka
(11) Money Bags
(4) Big Ben
Race time: 1:46.51

Results on the internet:
www.latimes.com/lottery
General information:
(800) 568-8379
(Results not available at this number)

Los Angeles Times
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((PODCAST))

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Prosecutor details boy's many injuries

[**Avalos,** from B1]

L.A. County Sheriff's Department investigators that was played in court Wednesday, his attorney, Dan Chambers, argued that Leiva did not cause Anthony's death and should be acquitted of his murder.

Barron's attorney, Nancy Sperber, declined to give an opening statement. During the trial, Sperber is expected to try to shift blame onto Leiva. Barron has alleged in interviews with police that Leiva also abused her.

Instead of a jury trial, both defendants opted to have L.A. County Superior Court Judge Sam Ohta render a verdict in the case.

A 2019 Times investigation provided a timeline of Anthony's devastating life. When he was 4 years old, his mother told relatives that her son had been sexually abused by a family member. Two years later, the boy's aunt, Crystal Diuguid, told a therapist that Barron was beating Anthony and locking him in a room.

The reports of violence against the boy grew more severe. One day, he showed up to school with wounds believed to have been caused by BB gun pellets, according to The Times' report. He told a vice principal that abuse by his mother included forcing him to hold a squatted position for long periods of time with his arms outstretched, which she called "the captain's chair."

A relative called an abuse hotline alleging that Leiva had dangled the children over a balcony and threatened to drop them, and sometimes picked Anthony up by his armpits before slamming him headfirst into the ground.

In the midst of the abuse, Anthony wrote a suicide note, according to records previously reviewed by The Times.

In his opening statement Wednesday, Teymouri detailed a list of burns, cuts and malnutrition the boy suffered, and repeatedly displayed pictures of his battered body taken in the hospital before he died. Sobs escaped from the gallery every few minutes as relatives passed around a box of tissues.

Flipping between a picture of a younger, healthier and smiling Anthony and an image of the boy lying in a hospital bed with sunken, bloody eyes and a body covered in cuts and bruises, Teymouri looked at the defendants and said: "They turned this beautiful 10-year-old boy from this, to this."

Anthony was brain-dead and had no pulse when paramedics arrived at his family's Lancaster home in June 2018, Teymouri said. Barron told paramedics he had thrown himself to the ground and hurt his head, but Teymouri said some of the other children in the house later told police he had been unconscious for nearly two days. In that time, Teymouri said, Leiva fled the home and signed over guardianship of his own five children to relatives, fearing he would be arrested.

At the trial, which is expected to last up to six weeks, multiple doctors and paramedics are expected to testify that Barron did not look bothered, and at other times appeared to be feigning tears, as her son lay unconscious and dying. Other witnesses are expected to paint Leiva as a violent gang member who starved and beat the children when they were out of Barron's sight.

In addition to determining the defendants' guilt or innocence, the trial is serving as a referendum on the county's Department of Children and Family Services.

Barron's sister-in-law Maria Barron took the stand Wednesday and wept after prosecutors replayed a call her husband had made to a county hotline in 2015, detailing abuse Anthony and the other children allegedly suffered from Leiva. After the report was filed, Maria Barron said, the agency allowed her sister-in-law to have an unsupervised visit with the children, during which she recorded them recanting the abuse allegations. The agency's caseworkers later returned the children to Leiva and Heather Barron, who cut off contact with her sister-in-law.

"We weren't allowed to see the kids anymore ... we couldn't save them," Maria Barron said.

It was the first of many failures. The agency, which was monitoring Anthony for most of a four-year period from 2013 to 2017, received at least 13 reports about him from relatives, teachers, counselors and police, yet he remained in Leiva and Barron's home. No DCFS employees have been disciplined over the case, the agency has said.

Sheriff's Department Det. Chris Wyatt also took a report that alleged Leiva had abused another one of Barron's children. Wyatt saw wounds on the child's ear, but made no attempt to find Leiva or pursue an investigation, according to the detective's grand jury testimony. Despite investigating the family for three years, DCFS workers never interviewed Leiva, according to case notes previously reviewed by The Times.

The case has often drawn comparisons to the torture and murder of 8-year-old Gabriel Fernandez, whose case also highlighted major flaws within DCFS. Prosecutors attempted to charge four social workers for failing to properly report the abuse suffered by Gabriel, but an appellate court threw the case out.

Prosecutors did not try to bring charges against DCFS employees in Anthony's death, though counselor Barbara Dixon was placed on probation by a state board for failing to report suspected abuse of both boys before their deaths.

CAROLYN COLE Los Angeles Times

UCLA LAB SCHOOL teachers, students and supporters march through the university campus Wednesday. Teachers say their two-day strike is not about salaries or benefits, but about alleged unfair labor practices.

Teachers go on strike at elite UCLA Lab School for children

Administrators no longer value mission of research and outreach, workers say.

BY ALEJANDRA REYES-VELARDE

For decades, UCLA Lab School, an elite pre-K-through-sixth-grade school nestled in a quiet corner of the UCLA campus, has offered a nurturing environment for students whose parents won a coveted spot for their child.

Run by the university's School of Education and Information Studies as its hands-on education laboratory, multiple expert teachers curate lessons based on evolving practices. The student body is diverse, students are selected for admission, and tuition is up to $25,000 with about a third of students on financial aid, the school website says.

But the teachers — who welcome UCLA researchers into their classrooms, conduct studies themselves and report their findings to educators — have become dispirited over working conditions and went on strike Wednesday morning. Their public actions offer rare insight into long-simmering conflicts at a school dedicated to modeling the best practices in education.

The teachers say management no longer values the school's core mission of research and outreach because administrators have refused to negotiate terms that serve those interests. Their two-day strike is not about salaries or benefits. Instead, they walked out over alleged unfair labor practices.

"We have a leadership that does not seem to be concerned about the mission and vision of the school ... and very little understanding of the culture of the lab school, who we are and what we represent," said Rebecca Heneise, a dual-language demonstration teacher at the lab school.

On Wednesday morning, about 25 demonstration teachers on strike stood in the pickup and dropoff area behind the school and rallied together. Then they marched to the office of the dean of the education school, Tina Christie. They chanted: "When our school's integrity is under attack, what do we do? Rise up, fight back!" And in Spanish, *"Escucha, Escucha, estamos en la lucha!"* Listen up, listen up, we are in the fight.

No one answered the door to Christie's office. Instead, an employee of the university's labor relations department greeted the group and collected its petition of nearly 2,000 signatures.

"I could have never dreamed that teachers would be on strike at the lab school," said Judith Kantor, who has been a teacher at the school since the 1970s. "We're working in an environment where people are afraid."

Research, once a key part of the school's mission, has become less of a focus, teachers said. Planning days have been reduced. Some classrooms have become limited to one teacher. A $2,000 annual stipend for dual-language teachers, who create curriculum in two languages, was dropped without notice, teachers said.

The faculty, who are members of the University Council-American Federation of Teachers, say that UC management has violated their rights to bargain by delaying the process and denying them the right to negotiate a side letter that includes working conditions specific to the needs of a lab school.

Teachers also say that the administration has made changes to the school's practices, including extending the number of school days without their input or negotiation. The university is open only to negotiating salary, which is part of their primary contract, ratified in 2021.

On behalf of the teachers, the union filed an unfair labor practices complaint with the state Public Employment Relations Board in June. A hearing on the complaint is scheduled in spring.

The university declined to comment on specifics of the negotiations.

"We value the work of our UCLA Lab School Demonstration Teachers represented by UC-AFT. UCLA is negotiating in good faith with the union, and we are hopeful that an agreement can be reached soon," the university said in a statement.

Lab school faculty have been under the same contract as UC lecturers, but school administrators had negotiated a side letter with terms specific to the school after the main contract was ratified. Side letters for the years 2011, 2014 and 2016 were successfully negotiated without issue, said Bill Quirk, lead UC-AFT negotiator for the school faculty.

Heneise said that the teachers asked management to come to the table to negotiate their new side letter in January 2022 and that they did not agree to meet until the summer.

"That right there was them not bargaining in good faith," she said. "They kept stalling and stalling and stalling. It was then that they told us they would only talk about compensation. We passed 20 proposals to them, and they said they would look only at the one on compensation."

However, even negotiations on compensation have been unsuccessful. The teachers asked for a 15% raise, which the university countered with 4%, which Heneise said doesn't account for the rising cost of living over the last three years, during which they have not received a raise.

The teachers say their demands are about maintaining the essence of the UCLA Lab School education that distinguishes it from other private schools and public schools in L.A.

The campus is surrounded by redwoods, green space and gardens, and a stream flows through the school, allowing the children to study and appreciate nature. Its 430 students, ages 4 through 12, from diverse backgrounds learn not only the mandated state curriculum, but also about topics that interest them and about current events and social justice issues.

Other schools in the UC system, including the UCLA Geffen Academy and the Preuss School at UC San Diego, have negotiated side letters that include similar terms.

"We're not even saying you have to agree to everything," said Jane Parkes, a demonstration teacher and alumna of the school. "We've been scratching our heads at a lot of this. It's been a very sad time for a lot of us."

Parkes said she remembers attending the school as a girl with a deep sense of autonomy and curiosity. It's a feeling that teachers have been able to re-create for decades.

"The last eight years I've been a demonstration teacher, I've really seen the amount of planning that goes into giving children that experience," she said. "We believe teaching conditions are learning conditions."

While teachers picketed, students in 19 classrooms were taught by six teacher apprentices, said Sylvia Gentile, a demonstration teacher on the bargaining team.

Gentile, who teaches sixth-graders, said the students have been curious about the strike.

"They're all over it. They're like, 'What are you striking for? What's the classroom going to be like?' They asked the brilliant question, 'If we support you, should we come to school tomorrow or should we stay home?' "

Ayla, a 9-year-old student who was joining her mother, Kim Morchower, a demonstration teacher, on the strike, said she was there to support her teachers.

"They make learning fun and it's always exciting, because before I came, I didn't like all the subjects. Now I love them," she said. "They're striking today because they're not listened to and they feel the need to be heard ... so the school can be a better place."

Rosie Torres, a dual-language demonstration teacher who has been with the school for 12 years, said she fears the culture that makes the school so special is being taken away.

"The lab school has always been a place of creativity, joy and innovation," she said. "It's a place where collaboration was valued and encouraged, and where students are taught about advocacy. That's really why I'm here."

But without notice, Torres said, some of those planning and professional development days were taken away.

LaToya Baldwin Clark, an assistant professor at the UCLA School of Law whose 10-year-old son attends the lab school, said she is standing behind the demonstration teachers because she has seen the difference they have made for her son.

"It's that he feels happy to go to school, he feels comfortable to go to school, " she said. "The smile on his face is a smile that says, 'I trust my teacher.' "

"These are people tasked with educating my child every day, and if they feel their work conditions aren't reasonable, I tend to believe them," she said. "I tend to believe the things they're asking for are the things they need."

Hiker, 75, is found alive, but actor is still missing

BY CHRISTIAN MARTINEZ

A 75-year-old hiker who was reported missing Sunday has been found alive on Mt. Baldy, the San Bernardino County Sheriff's Department said.

Jin Chung of Los Angeles was found Tuesday afternoon with some "weather-related injuries" and a leg injury but was able to walk with the assistance of rescue personnel, the department said in a news release.

He was taken to a hospital for treatment.

Chung went missing on Mt. Baldy nine days after British actor Julian Sands, 65, was reported missing on the same mountain.

"As of this time, Mr. Sands has not been found and no evidence of his current location has been discovered," the Sheriff's Department said Tuesday.

On Wednesday, authorities said they had begun to scale back their efforts as the search for Sands entered its 12th day.

The Sheriff's Department, which is leading the search, said it is continuing to look for the missing actor only with air units, such as helicopters and drones. Air crews are using RECCO devices, a rescue technology that uses harmonic radar systems to detect clothing equipped with RECCO reflectors. The device is commonly used to find people buried by an avalanche or lost hikers.

Sands was reported missing Jan. 13.

4.2 quake, aftershocks off Malibu jolt region

The 2 a.m. temblor struck 10 miles off the coast. No reports of injuries or damage.

BY ALEXANDRA E. PETRI

Los Angeles County was rattled early Wednesday morning after a magnitude 4.2 earthquake struck 10 miles off the coast of Malibu, according to the U.S. Geological Survey.

The initial quake was reported at 2 a.m. A magnitude 3.5 aftershock struck just three minutes later, followed by a magnitude 2.8 at 2:22 and a magnitude 2.6 at 2:38, the USGS said. The first earthquake occurred at a depth of about 9 miles.

"This morning's M4.2 quake off the coast of Malibu is a reminder that we live in #earthquake country," the L.A. County Office of Emergency Management said in a tweet.

There was no threat of a tsunami, according to the U.S. National Tsunami Warning Center.

The Los Angeles Fire Department went into "complete earthquake mode" and conducted a citywide assessment early Wednesday morning. No injuries or damages were reported the LAFD said on its website.

The earthquake was felt as far north as Oxnard and as far south as Long Beach, the USGS shake map showed. The California Governor's Office of Emergency Services said in a tweet that an emergency alert from the MyShake app, an earthquake early warning system, was sent to residents, warning them that a quake was expected and to stop, drop and cover.

The alert went to 62,000 phones, said Richard Allen, a seismologist and director of the UC Berkeley Seismological Laboratory, which built the app.

Residents across Los Angeles reported on social media that they were startled by the flurry of temblors.

"Wow. That was big," actor Josh Gad tweeted.

Jenise Spiteri, an Olympic snowboarder, said on Twitter that was the "biggest one I've felt in a long time."

Other residents reported being jolted awake, and some reported sleeping through the event.

An average of 25 earthquakes between magnitudes 4.0 and 5.0 occur each year in California and Nevada, according to a recent three-year data sample.

Times staff writer Henry Chu contributed to this report.

Judge orders release of evidence in attack on Paul Pelosi

[**Pelosi,** from B1]
and stir up more misinformation about the case. The attack on Pelosi spawned a flurry of unfounded conspiracy theories online, including on popular social media platforms.

San Francisco County Superior Court Judge Stephen Murphy disagreed with those objections, dismissing them as speculation. He said that while the right to a fair trial is "certainly a legitimate concern in any case," the court couldn't withhold the release of records out of fear that they could be manipulated.

During a preliminary hearing in December, several pieces of evidence in the case against DePape were played or reviewed in court, including the 911 call, portions of police body-camera video, portions of the police interview with DePape and footage from a Capitol Police surveillance camera.

Murphy ruled that prosecutors had presented sufficient evidence to move forward with a criminal trial. DePape has pleaded not guilty.

DePape, who attended Wednesday's hearing wearing a black mask, orange sweater and sweatpants and with his hair pulled back into a low ponytail, faces charges of attempted murder, assault with a deadly weapon, elder abuse, false imprisonment, first-degree burglary and threatening a family member of a public official.

In a court filing, the attorney for the news organizations had argued that the public and news media had a right to access the pretrial evidence submitted during the December hearing, and that because the records had already been played and reviewed and then reported on in the media, their release would not "identify sensitive witnesses or pose any privacy risk."

ERIC RISBERG Associated Press

AN OFFICER closes a street below Nancy Pelosi's home in San Francisco after the attack in October.

"This is just such a case where the public interest in openness is paramount. Defendant is accused of entering the residence of the then-Speaker of the U.S. House of Representatives (second in the Presidential line of succession) with the apparent intent of, at minimum, grievously injuring her, and attacking her husband," the filing stated. "The nature of the alleged crime justifies a maximum amount of transparency.

"As courts repeatedly have recognized, the right of access ensures that members of the public and their surrogates in the press are able to monitor and scrutinize the justice system and the performance of police, prosecutors, and judges as they carry out vital public functions."

DePape's attorneys argued that releasing the records could taint the jury pool and threaten their client's constitutional right to a fair trial.

"I don't think any of the cases are quite like this case with the amount of conspiracy theories already floating out there in this case," public defender Adam Lipson said in court. "There's just been so much information out there, so many false stories published, the spread of the media, from mainstream media to fringe media to internet media to social media, is just so much greater today than even two years ago."

The district attorney's office raised the same issue to the court, arguing that access to pretrial records is not an "unfettered right" and that 1st Amendment rights had "been well respected and are not implicated" in this case.

With Murphy's ruling, the district attorney's office immediately handed over the exhibits to the court. The court's clerk is working on making the records available to the public.

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Los Angeles Times

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LEGAL NOTICES 1300

Legal Notices

Legal Notice OF A DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT
PROJECT TITLE: C LINE (GREEN) EXTENSION TO TORRANCE PROJECT
DRAFT ENVIRONMENTAL IMPACT REPORT AVAILABLE FOR REVIEW
PROJECT DESCRIPTION: The Los Angeles County Metropolitan Transportation Authority (Metro) has completed the Draft Environmental Impact Report (EIR) for the C Line (Green) Extension to Torrance Project (Proposed Project) pursuant to the California Environmental Quality Act (CEQA). Metro is the lead agency for the Draft EIR which has been prepared in accordance with the CEQA guidelines. This publication is intended to serve as the Notice of Availability (NOA) to notify all agencies, organizations and interested parties of the completion of the Draft EIR and commencement of the 61-day public review and comment period.

Metro proposes to implement a light rail transit Project that would extend the C Line (Green) from the existing Redondo Beach (Marine) Station to the Torrance Transit Park and Ride Regional Terminal. The Draft EIR evaluates the Proposed Project, which would be an elevated/at-grade alignment within the existing Metro-owned right-of-way (ROW) for the entire 4.5-mile length. Two options are considered for the northern segment of the Project area between the Redondo Beach (Marine) Station and 190th Street: 1) Trench Option, which travels along the Metro ROW with the light rail located within a trench, and 2) Hawthorne Option, with the light rail in an elevated configuration traveling parallel to the I-405 Freeway and within the median of Hawthorne Boulevard.

A printed copy of the Draft EIR can be obtained at the following limited locations:
Lawndale Library (14615 Burin Av, Lawndale, CA 90260)
Redondo Beach North Library (2000 Artesia Bl, Redondo Beach, CA 90278)
North Torrance Library (3604 Artesia Bl, Torrance, CA 90504)
Katy Geissert Civic Center Library (3301 Torrance Bl, Torrance, CA 90503)
Metro Headquarters Library (One Gateway Plaza, Los Angeles, CA 90012) by appointment only. Please email library@metro.net to schedule an appointment.

A digital copy of the Draft EIR can be obtained at metro.net/clineext.

COMMENT DUE DATE: This Draft EIR will be circulated for a 61-day public review period beginning on January 26, 2023 and ending on March 27, 2023. The public review period was extended to allow the public sufficient opportunity to comment on the project and Draft EIR due to holidays and weekends. Written comments should be sent to Metro on or before March 27, 2023 at the postal address or e-mail address below or at the public hearings. You may also call the C Line (Green) Extension to Torrance Project hotline number at (213) 922-4004.

PUBLIC HEARING DATES:

Wednesday, February 15, 5:30-8:30pm
Lawndale High School
Centinela Valley Center for the Arts
14901 S Inglewood Av
Lawndale, CA 90260

Thursday, February 16, 11am–1pm
Zoom link: bit.ly/cletdeir-mtg
Phone: 833.548.0282 (toll free)
Meeting ID: 895 3678 6223

Tuesday, February 21, 5–8pm
Torrance Cultural Arts Center Toyota Meeting Hall
3330 Civic Center Dr Torrance, CA 90503

Wednesday, February 22, 5–8pm
Redondo Beach Performing Arts Center
1935 Manhattan Beach Bl Redondo Beach, CA 90278

Saturday, February 25, 10am–1pm
Lawndale High School
Centinela Valley Center for the Arts
14901 S Inglewood Av
Lawndale, CA 90260

Visit the Project StoryMap to access additional information at bit.ly/cletstory.

In person public hearings are subject to change and may be held virtually based on changing COVID-19 health guidelines. All Metro meetings are accessible to persons with disabilities. Spanish translation provided. Other ADA accommodations and translations available by calling 323.466.3876 at least 72 hours in advance.

ADDRESS: Please send written comments to Georgia Sheridan, Project Manager, Metro One Gateway Plaza, Mail Stop 99-22-3, Los Angeles, CA 90012 or via e-mail to greenlineextension@metro.net.

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 22SMCP00611

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Danielle Lee Morton
1374 Bella Oceana Vista, Pacific Palisades
TO ALL PERSONS INTERESTED:
Petitioner Danielle Lee Morton filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Danielle Lee Morton
Proposed Name
Danielle Lee Russo-Morton
THE COURT ORDERS that all persons interested in this matter appear before this court at the hearing indicated below to show cause, if any, why the petition for change of name should not be granted. Any person objecting to the name changes described above must file a written objection that includes the reasons for the objection at least two days before the matter is scheduled to be heard and must appear at the hearing to show cause why the petition should not be granted. If no written objection is timely filed, the court may grant the petition without a hearing.
NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: February 24, 2023
TIME: 8:30am
DEPT: K
ROOM:
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA, 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.
Dated: December 15, 2022
Clerk of Court
Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 01/05/23, 01/12/23, 01/19/23, 01/26/23

Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
Case Number (Numero del Caso): 22VECV00697

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
BRINKMAN PORTILLO RONK, APC, a California corporation

YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTA DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
ARTESIA CENTER 2, LLC, a Delaware limited liability company

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.

You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.

There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. NOTE: The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.

¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 dias, la corte puede decider en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la informacion a continuacion.

Tiene 30 DIAS DE CALENDARIO despues de que le entreguen esta citacion y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefonica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y mas informacion en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede mas cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentacion, pida al secretario de la corte que le de un formulario de exencion de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podra quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin mas advertencia.

The name and address of the court is: (El nombre y direccion de la corte es):
Los Angeles County Superior Court
6230 Sylmar Avenue
Van Nuys, CA 91401

The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is: (El nombre, la direccion y el numero de telefono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es):
Andrew Haley
1299 Ocean Ave., #400
Santa Monica, CA 90401
3104518001

Date: (Fecha) 5/23/2022

Sherri R. Carter Clerk (Secretario)
R. Duron Deputy (Adjunto)

Name Change

ORDER TO SHOW CAUSE FOR A CHANGE OF NAME
CASE NO. 22SMCP00611

Petitioner or Attorney (name, state, bar, and address):
Danielle Lee Morton
1374 Bella Oceana Vista, Pacific Palisades
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Petitioner Danielle Lee Morton filed a petition with this court for a decree changing names as follows:
Present Name
Danielle Lee Morton
Proposed Name
Danielle Lee Russo-Morton
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NOTICE OF HEARING
DATE: February 24, 2023
TIME: 8:30am
DEPT: K
ROOM:
The address of the court is: SUPERIOR COURT OF CALIFORNIA County of Los Angeles 1725 Main Street, Santa Monica CA, 90401 A copy of this Order to Show Cause shall be published at least once each week for four successive weeks prior to the date set for hearing on the petition in the following newspaper of general circulation, printed in this county.
Dated: December 15, 2022
Clerk of Court
Clerk of Court
Published in the Los Angeles Times 01/05/23, 01/12/23, 01/19/23, 01/26/23

Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER *(Número del Caso)*:
22CHLC01040
NOTICE TO DEFENDANT *(AVISO AL DEMANDADO)*:
CARLOS KING, and Does 1 to 10
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF *(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE)*: WELLS FARGO BANK, N. A.
NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (*www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp*), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
There are other legal requirements. You may want to call an attorney right away. If you do not know an attorney, you may want to call an attorney referral service. If you cannot afford an attorney, you may be eligible for free legal services from a nonprofit legal services program. You can locate these nonprofit groups at the California Legal Services Web site (*www.lawhelpcalifornia.org*), the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (*www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp*), or by contacting your local court or county bar association. **NOTE:** The court has a statutory lien for waived fees and costs on any settlement or arbitration award of $10,000 or more in a civil case. The court's lien must be paid before the court will dismiss the case.
¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su versión. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presentar una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo protegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puede encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de exención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y bienes sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisitos legales. Es recomendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remisión a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisitos para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin fines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin fines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos exentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.
The name and address of the court is *(El nombre y dirección de la corte es)*: Superior Court of California, County of LOS ANGELES 9425 Penfield Avenue, Chatsworth, CA 91311
The name, address, and telephone number of plaintiff's attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is *(El nombre, la dirección y el número de teléfono del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abogado, es)*: Claudia Gavrilescu, Esq. (CA Bar No.: 333030), REESE LAW GROUP, 3168 Lionshead Avenue, Carlsbad, CA 92010; 760/842-5850 (File No. 566556)
DATE *(Fecha)*: 01/13/2022
Sherri R. Carter Executive Officer/Clerk, Clerk *(Secretario)*, by L. Lopez, Deputy *(Adjunto)*
(SEAL)
NOTICE TO THE PERSON SERVED: You are served .
1/19, 1/26, 2/2, 2/9/23
CNS-3660683#

Legal Notices

SUMMONS
(CITACION JUDICIAL)
CASE NUMBER (Numero del Caso): 22CV009932

NOTICE TO DEFENDANT:
(AVISO AL DEMANDADO):
CB Beverly Hills Investment Management, as a Stock Corporation, Charles H. Le, individually, Diamond CL Investments LLC, a California Limited Liability Corporation, Paulus Yi, individually, and DOES 1 through 10.
YOU ARE BEING SUED BY PLAINTIFF:
(LO ESTÁ DEMANDANDO EL DEMANDANTE):
Damon Taylor

NOTICE! You have been sued. The court may decide against you without your being heard unless you respond within 30 days. Read the information below.
You have 30 CALENDAR DAYS after this summons and legal papers are served on you to file a written response at this court and have a copy served on the plaintiff. A letter or phone call will not protect you. Your written response must be in proper legal form if you want the court to hear your case. There may be a court form that you can use for your response. You can find these court forms and more information at the California Courts Online Self-Help Center (www.courtinfo.ca.gov/selfhelp), your county law library, or the courthouse nearest you. If you cannot pay the filing fee, ask the court clerk for a fee waiver form. If you do not file your response on time, you may lose the case by default, and your wages, money, and property may be taken without further warning from the court.
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¡AVISO! Lo han demandado. Si no responde dentro de 30 días, la corte puede decidir en su contra sin escuchar su version. Lea la información a continuación.
Tiene 30 DÍAS DE CALENDARIO después de que le entreguen esta citación y papeles legales para presenter una respuesta por escrito en esta corte y hacer que se entregue una copia al demandante. Una carta o una llamada telefónica no lo prolegen. Su respuesta por escrito tiene que estar en formato legal correcto si desea que procesen su caso en la corte. Es posible que haya un formulario que usted pueda usar para su respuesta. Puedo encontrar estos formularios de la corte y más información en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California (www.sucorte.ca.gov), en la biblioteca de leyes de su condado o en la corte que le quede más cerca. Si no puede pagar la cuota de presentación, pida al secretario de la corte que le dé un formulario de extención de pago de cuotas. Si no presenta su respuesta a tiempo, puede perder el caso por incumplimiento y la corte le podrá quitar su sueldo, dinero y hiener sin más advertencia.
Hay otros requisites legales. Es recommendable que llame a un abogado inmediatamente. Si no conoce a un abogado, puede llamar a un servicio de remission a abogados. Si no puede pagar a un abogado, es posible que cumpla con los requisites para obtener servicios legales gratuitos de un programa de servicios legales sin lines de lucro. Puede encontrar estos grupos sin lines de lucro en el sitio web de California Legal Services, (www.lawhelpcalifornia.org), en el Centro de Ayuda de las Cortes de California, (www.sucorte.ca.gov) o poniéndose en contacto con la corte o el colegio de abogados locales. AVISO: Por ley, la corte tiene derecho a reclamar las cuotas y los costos extentos por imponer un gravamen sobre cualquier recuperación de $10,000 ó más de valor recibida mediante un acuerdo o una concesión de arbitraje en un caso de derecho civil. Tiene que pagar el gravamen de la corte antes de que la corte pueda desechar el caso.

The name and address of the court is:
(El nombre y dirección de la corte es):
Alameda County Superior Court
1225 Fallon Street
Oakland, California 94612

The name, address, and telephone number of the plaintiffs attorney, or plaintiff without an attorney, is:
(El nombre, la dirección y el número del abogado del demandante, o del demandante que no tiene abodgado, es):
Joshua C. Ezrin, Esq.
345 Franklin Street
San Francisco, California 94102
Telephone: 415-577-2558

Date: April 15, 2022

Chad Finke Clerk (Secretario)
X. Bowie Deputy (Adjunto)

Published in the Los Angeles Times 1/5/2023, 1/12/2023, 1/19, 2023, 1/26, 2023

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JUMBLE

Unscramble these Jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

RNDAG
NTAEG
XREPIF
HEVEAB

It's cub season. You need to be very careful! Seriously, you need to be careful.
Got it- cub season. Go Cubs!
Maybe we should hang out at the lodge?
CAUTION
1/26
THE WARNING FROM THE RANGER ABOUT THE GRIZZLIES WAS IMPORTANT ENOUGH TO ---

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Now arrange the circled letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

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(Answers tomorrow)

Yesterday's Jumbles: GRIME HALVE CRISIS THRASH
Answer: The people who've successfully summited Mount Everest are — HIGH ACHIEVERS

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2 months added to county eviction moratorium

[**Eviction,** from B1]
Angeles is poised to become one of those cities.

The City Council agreed to let the citywide eviction moratorium expire at the end of January. In its place, the council passed a tenant protection package that includes universal "just cause" eviction rules, meaning landlords will no longer be allowed to evict tenants in any rental property, including single-family homes, unless there was unpaid rent, documented lease violations, owner move-ins or other specific reasons.

Because the city will no longer have its own eviction moratorium, the county's moratorium will apply to residents of the city of Los Angeles starting Feb. 1, said Rachael Simon, a former senior housing deputy who is serving on Horvath's transition team.

The package of renter protections the City Council passed will not be affected by the county's vote, she said.

The board passed the two-month extension on a 3-1 vote. Supervisor Kathryn Barger voted no, voicing concern for the county's mom-and-pop landlords who she felt had gone unpaid for too long.

"We have to recognize that the landlords serve a purpose too," said Barger, who emphasized she had "serious, serious reservations" about the proposal.

Supervisor Holly Mitchell, who had written the last motion extending the moratorium, abstained. Isela Gracian, senior deputy on housing and homelessness, said her boss felt the motion didn't do enough to address renters' root challenges.

Horvath, who campaigned in part on renters' rights, had originally pushed for the county to pass a more comprehensive package of renter protections Tuesday.

The original motion, crafted by Horvath and Supervisor Hilda Solis, would have extended the moratorium six months and prohibited landlords from evicting tenants for pets or unauthorized tenants through the end of the year.

But their colleagues took issue with the proposal. Barger worried landlords had been left out of the conversation. Mitchell wanted more rent assistance going to landlords. Supervisor Janice Hahn said she was growing uneasy about the number of times the county had extended the moratorium.

"We try to have an off-ramp of this at every meeting and we can't seem to get on that off-ramp," Hahn said.

IRFAN KHAN Los Angeles Times

LANDLORDS HOLD signs calling for an end to eviction protections at L.A. City Hall in October.

A majority of the board ultimately agreed on a watered-down version of Horvath's initial package — one that would extend the eviction moratorium by two months instead of six. In a separate motion, the board also directed $45 million in rental assistance for the county's smaller landlords.

Many landlords and property managers called in to Tuesday's meeting, urging the board to let the moratorium expire in a week as they had originally intended.

"I saw schools and daycares reopen and still no rent. I registered new Porsches to our garage on two accounts that I haven't seen payment on in nearly three years," said property manager Crystal Beard, adding she'd seen a few renters with over $100,000 in unpaid rent leave to purchase houses.

"It is enough. It must stop. We need to put an end date to it."

Others urged the county to go in the opposite direction, coming up with a more comprehensive package of tenant protections that would keep at-risk Angelenos in their homes past the new March end date.

"Without protections, community members are at great risk of displacement and being left on the streets," said Daniel Jimenez, director of community organizing with Inner-City Struggle, which serves families on the Eastside. "We need to ensure tenants are protected. We need to ensure tenants are housed."

Advocates like Jimenez said the county wasn't going far enough to protect at-risk renters.

Countywide eviction filings surged in 2022 after remaining far below pre-pandemic levels through 2021.

The number of eviction filings countywide in November and December outpaced or roughly equaled the number of filings during those same months in 2018 and 2019, according to L.A. County Superior Court records compiled by Kyle Nelson, a postdoctoral researcher at UCLA who has tracked them during the pandemic.

Gun control isn't high on priority list of U.S. voters

[**Skelton,** from B1]
France, California has among the loosest firearms restrictions in the world. We don't have incredibly strict gun laws."

I'm not always a fan of Newsom's rhetoric. It's often overly emotional, awfully wordy and too repetitive. This is particularly true when he's trying to enhance his national stature among Democrats by attacking conservative governors in Texas and Florida. I figure he has plenty to be angry about in his own state concerning problems that affect fellow Californians.

But on these shootings, he has had the right tone and length, especially in Half Moon Bay, a small coastal town just south of San Francisco.

There he met with victims' families, local leaders and reporters.

Newsom spoke of his frustration over mouthing "the same thing over and over and over" after each mass shooting. And aren't we all tired of doing that?

"I have no ideological opposition to someone owning a gun responsibly, but what the hell is wrong with us that we allow these weapons of war and large-capacity clips out on the streets and sidewalks?" he asked. "Why have we allowed this culture, this pattern, to continue?"

Most of us keep asking that.

"Where's the Republican Party been on gun safety reform?" the Democratic governor continued. "They've fought it every step of the way. ... Shame on them."

Where *has* the GOP been? Appeasing the relatively small gun-worshiping cult and becoming more hard right, in large part due to the gerrymandering of U.S. House districts.

Red state legislatures draw House district lines to make them safer for Republicans against Democrats. Then the biggest threat to GOP incumbents becomes other Republicans.

In a competitive party primary, gun enthusiasts are often the decisive swing voters. And they're single-issue voters — people whose decisions on candidates solely depend on a politician's stance on guns.

GOP members of Congress fear that if they vote for major gun control, they'll be booted out of office by fellow Republican constituents.

By contrast, most American voters — and certainly Californians — support national gun control, such as requiring universal background checks, banning assault weapons and limiting the capacity of ammunition magazines to 10 rounds. But gun control isn't high on their priority list.

"It's not on the top of people's minds," veteran Democratic consultant Bill Carrick says. "Inflation. Taxes. Boom. They're on people's minds all the time. The gun issue comes and goes as mass shootings come and go."

California arguably has the nation's strictest gun control laws, but they're starting to be eroded by conservative courts, led by the U.S. Supreme Court. For example, California's ban on high-capacity magazines is in litigation limbo.

And even with our surviving tough restrictions, they're at the mercy of adjacent states — Nevada and Arizona — that have lax restrictions. Those neighbors are a great source of weapons for Californians who can't arm themselves locally.

That's why national regulations are needed — such as meaningful background checks and California Sen. Dianne Feinstein's long-advocated assault weapons ban.

"The constant stream of mass shootings have one common thread: They almost all involve assault weapons," Feinstein said in a statement while reintroducing her bill Monday. "It's because these weapons were designed to kill as many people as quickly as possible. They have no business in our communities or schools."

California was way ahead of the curve on assault weapon bans, passing its first in 1989 when Republican George Deukmejian was governor.

Deukmejian then was regarded as a mainstream conservative. Today he'd be seen by his party as a leftist.

Like a lot of people, I suspect, my first reaction upon hearing about the shooting rampage that killed 11 and wounded nine at a Monterey Park dance hall frequented by Asian Americans was that the culprit was a young male white supremacist. Wrong. It was a 72-year-old Asian American man.

So, there's no common demographic or motive for these mass killers.

"The one common denominator is these damn guns," Newsom said.

Yep.

Dr. Amy Barnhorst, a psychiatrist and associate director of the Violence Prevention Research Program at UC Davis, says of mass shooters: "We can't solve all their problems. But we can stop these people from acting out by keeping them away from large-capacity weapons."

That won't happen, however, as long as a few heavily armed firearms lovers outgun the rest of us politically. The majority needs to use their most powerful weapon, the vote.

OBITUARY NOTICES

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Los Angeles Times

BISSELL, Margaret

October 1932 - December 2022

Margaret Bissell, age 90, passed away on December 16, 2022.

Margaret was born in Minnesota to George and Helen. In 1953, Margaret started her lifelong love of adventuring when she and her sister Marian packed up everything they owned and drove to Southern California.

Margaret discovered her skill with computer programming at Hughes Aircraft, then went on to work in programming and management for System Development Corporation for 32 years.

In 1974, Margaret met the love of her life, William (Bill) Bissell, an engineer working at Rocketdyne. They were married soon after and purchased their dream home in the beautiful hills of Westlake Village.

Over the years, Margaret and Bill traveled to nearly 200 destinations across all 7 continents, where they treasured the diverse cultures, wildlife, history, archeology, architecture, and cuisine.

After retirement, Margaret served her community by volunteering at her local library with an adult-literacy group and by working as a curator for a local museum. Margaret and Bill also spent many summers volunteering for the National Park System while exploring in their motor home.

In addition to traveling, Margaret loved Christmastime, painting, and especially playing bridge, ultimately achieving the rank of Silver Life Master.

Margaret also greatly enjoyed spending time with her family, friends, and neighbors, and they all cherished their time with her. She was admired and loved by everyone she met.

Margaret was preceded in death by her husband, Bill; her brother, Richard; and her sister Elenore. She is survived by her sisters Evelyn and Marian and 4 generations of nieces and nephews.

A memorial service will be held at Conejo Mountain Funeral Home in Camarillo on February 3 at 10:00 a.m.

In lieu of flowers, donations may be made in Margaret's name to The Nature Conservancy.

MCCARTHY, Dennis J.

August 1957 - November 30, 2022

Dennis McCarthy, age 65, of Los Angeles, passed away on Wednesday, November 30, 2022, at Cedars-Sinai Hospital in Beverly Hills, CA.

Dennis grew up in Silver Spring, Maryland. He graduated from the University of Maryland with a Bachelor's in Radio, Television, and Film, and received a computer programming certificate from CLC. Dennis retired in 2020 after 25 years at Honda as a senior programmer analyst with the Consumer Finance Division.

Dennis enjoyed body-building, and had a life-long love of TV and film. He was known for his caring nature, remarkable memory, quick sense of humor, sharp wit, and sarcasm.

Dennis was preceded in death by his parents, Agnes and Charles McCarthy. He is the cherished brother of Maureen McCarthy (Richard Lerner), adored Uncle of Keith Lerner and Lynn Lerner, 'Dad Away from Home' to Tiffany Brouwer (Alan Santini), and dear cousin and friend to many.

Local services will be scheduled in LA and Maryland at a later time.

SPRINGER, Joyce Allen

February 8, 1936 - January 16, 2023

Joyce A. Springer, born Feb. 1936, died Jan. 2023 in Chatsworth, California.

Survived by son Matthew, daughter Jessica, and beloved nieces and nephews.

TREBOW, Beverly H

November 26, 1935 - January 21, 2023

Beverly Helen Trebow passed away at age 87. Born in Los Angeles to Bessie and Ben Shafer, Beverly graduated from Beverly Hills HS, and earned her Special Education Certificate. She worked devotedly with pre-school special education students in LAUSD. She was predeceased by her loving husband, Fred. Beverly is survived by her daughter, Dr. Elizabeth Trebow, sister, Dr. Arlene Price, 2 nieces and 4 nephews. Beverly was adored by all who knew her. She was involved in B'nai B'rith and many other charitable organizations. Funeral will be January 27, at Noon, at Hillside Memorial Park.

To place an obituary ad please go online to:
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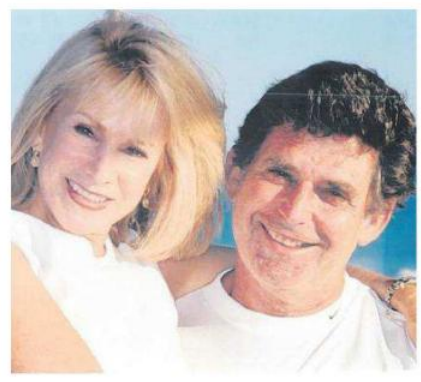
or call Ms. Phillips
1-800-528-4637
Ext. 77242

Douglas Constantine Basil

May 30, 1923 - December 20, 2022

A truly amazing Renaissance man, Dr. Douglas Constantine Basil, passed away at his home surrounded by his family in his one-hundredth year. Although he never liked to tell anyone his age, he was within a few months of marking the 100 milestone. He will be very much missed by many. A proud naturalized American citizen, Douglas was born in Vancouver, Canada on May 30, 1923 to mother Christine (Findley) Basil of Glasgow, Scotland, and father William Basil, born in Greece. He enlisted in the Canadian/British Army when World War II started for the allied side in 1939. A captain by age 19, he was in active service in Germany, France, Great Britain and Holland for over five years. He was recruited by the British Intelligence during the war but did not want to accept the invitation! He asked to be with his men and learned years later, that the battalions to which he was assigned suffered immense casualties. Douglas maintained that his love of history and strategy grew out of his war time experiences. After WWII, Douglas pursued his education on the Canadian version of the GI Bill and graduated from the University of British Columbia. He was eventually awarded a scholarship to attend the London School of Economics for his advanced studies. He was in turn offered several teaching opportunities in the United States which he accepted with his wife Peg, who was the first in her Canadian family to have an advanced degree. Douglas taught at the University of Marquette and Northwestern University in the Kellogg School of Business, among others. He will forever be associated with his long 28 year teaching career at USC (University of Southern California) in the Management and Organization Department at the Marshall School of Business. He was a big booster to young faculty and created a program for them. When he retired, he left a generous endowment to support retired professors at the USC Emeriti Center. Douglas published many books on business which were translated into languages such as Japanese and Portuguese. He had a special interest in promoting women in business and wrote one of the first serious books encouraging companies worldwide to advance their careers. With Dr. Curtis Cook, Douglas wrote a seminal book called The Management of Change which McGraw Hill promoted as "the blueprint for 21rst Century Man." (He would have added "Woman" we know). Douglas enjoyed teaching seminars to international students around the world through courses associated with Harvard, Stanford and Dartmouth. He created The Basil Family Foundation to foster advanced education and unique projects. He also became a sought-after international business consultant and spent nearly half the year travelling. Douglas often pulled his daughter out of school after deciding that world travel was an important component of her education. He loved learning about new things and having adventures. He seemed fearless at times – such as paragliding in Mexico in his eighties or travelling through Europe with his wife Peg on the back of a motorcycle by way of a honeymoon. Douglas outlived many of his friends, colleagues and family members, including his brother William and several cherished relatives in Scotland and Canada. He is preceded in death by his first wife Evelyn Margaret "Peg" Basil (formerly Pitcairn) of over 40 years. He is survived by his loving and adored wife Pauline Cleary (formerly Iacono) Basil of San Pedro, California. Douglas is survived by his only child, Dr. Wendy Basil of Simi Valley, California and two much loved granddaughters Alice Lockhart and Lily Lockhart. He also loved his "honorary daughter" Mary Mateljan Ruiz and passed on the travel bug to her. Mary first introduced herself to the family while on a tricycle, age 4, when she asked to inspect the house Douglas was building next door "for his little girl." As a hobby and an investment, Douglas also designed and built a number of cliff-side houses. Douglas continued to serve as an educator for many years following the passing of his first wife. He was delighted to be recruited as a guest lecturer booked on cruise ships as a way to get away from an empty house. He would discuss the culture, history and economic interests of the ports they visited, plus gave tips on shopping and purchasing art. He met his second wife Pauline, a widow, on a cruise ship when she attended his lecture, only to learn that they lived in the same California town a few miles apart! His caregivers were extraordinary and essential to his health in the past year. Mary Ann Bonsall was the primary caretaker who also brought in Mercy, Eva and Lou. Douglas kept his sense of humor throughout his long life and truly adored these ladies. One of their favorite excursions was to the 99 Cent Store. He passed his love of collecting to his daughter Wendy who would often accompany him to garage sales and auctions while growing up. Part of their routine was to hide his purchases downstairs so his wife wouldn't see them. He continued to hide his treasures from his second wife Pauline as well. As per his wishes, there were no graveside services following cremation. Instead, a joyous celebration with bagpipes and toasts to a life well-lived is planned for Friday January 27, 2023 at Michael's Tuscany Room (Banquet) at 470 West 7th Street, San Pedro, CA 90731. Telephone is 310/ 519-7100. Lunch will be served from 11 am to 2 pm. If you wish to make a gift in Douglas Basil's name, you can give an in-memory donation to the Salvation Army which was a favorite of his Scottish relatives at give.salvationarmyusa.org or to KUSC Radio either by calling 800/421-1717 or text KUSC AT 41444. For more information, please contact Wendy Basil at drwendybasil@gmail.com. Please sign the guestbook at mcnerneysmortuary.com.



Joel Altshule

December 21, 1933 - January 23, 2023

Joel Altshule was born in Brooklyn on December 21, 1933 to Al and Claire Altshule. They moved to Los Angeles when he was 13 years old, right after Joel's Bar Mitzvah.

Joel worked hard from a young age, delivering newspapers and working for a local pharmacy. He attended UCLA and dropped out after his sophomore year to help his father with The Famous Department Store downtown. He then served a year in the army, and it was his best friend from his troop, Sid Kastner, who set him up on a blind date with Herma Goldstein, may her memory be a blessing. After their first date, Herma told her mother that she was going to marry Joel. Nine months later, on November 1, 1958, they were married at Brentwood Country Club. Herma used to say "If it weren't for me, Joel would still be on Hesby Street [in his parents' house]." They loved each other dearly and were married for 63 years.

While working at The Famous Department Store, Joel had the idea to use the sewing machines there to turn some extra nylon from tent repairs into duffel bags. Joel brought his samples to a trade show in Las Vegas in 1973, and when he received his first purchase order from Long Beach Surplus for $3,000, he thought he had won the lottery. This sense of something bigger led him to found Outdoor Products. Joel prided himself on making his products right here in Los Angeles and created a successful business. Like his father did for him, Joel brought his son Andrew into the company—Andrew has worked at Outdoor Products for over 30 years and is now CEO.

Joel was always humble, sharp, and quietly confident. He used to run 10Ks, was an excellent tennis player, and loved playing poker with his buddies. He was a respected businessman and a loving family man. He was predeceased by his sister Iris Shifren and will be missed by extended family including Carole and Richard Sukman, Claudie and Robert Goldstein, Nancy and Perry Altshule and numerous nieces and nephews.

He is survived by family members whom he loved with all his heart; his daughter Julie Schoenfeld (Jeff), and his sons Andrew Altshule (Joli) and Mark Altshule. He adored his grandchildren, Kate and Max Schoenfeld and Liv and Winston Altshule, with whom he was very close. He will be deeply missed.

May his memory forever be a blessing.

In lieu of flowers, please consider a donation to The Jewish Federation of Greater Los Angeles www.jewishla.org/give

KAWASHIMA, Kelly Mariko

(37) passed away in Torrance on December 11, 2022, after battling breast cancer for several years. She is survived by her parents, Ronald and Gail Kawashima; sister, Kathy (Daniel Lara); nephew, Zach Lara; fiancé, Keith Wilson; also survived by many uncles, aunts, and cousins in Hawaii and in Southern California.

A Celebration of Life service will be held on Friday, February 3, 2023, at 10:00 AM at Gardena Valley Baptist Church, 1630 W. 158th Street, Gardena, 90247. Family requests aloha or casual attire. Masks kindly requested.

www.kubotamortuary.com
(213) 749-1449

LEVINE, Lenore

February 17, 1943 - January 12, 2023

"You Were The Wind Beneath Our Wings"

On Thursday, January 12, 2023, Lenore Levine, beloved partner and mother of two, passed away at the age of 79.

Lenore was born in the Bronx, NY, to Anna and Morris Marks. She lived a full life with her love and constant companion of 40 years, Denice and her two children, Adam and Allison.

Lenore was a young woman in the 1960's and was always the political activist, whether marching for peace or later in years engaging in passionate political conversation with friends and family. There was always laughter and joy in Lenore's home, especially with her sister Norma, who was taken too soon. Lenore will always be remembered for her wicked sense of humor. She loved music, the theater and travel. Unfortunately, Lenore's ability to travel was taken from her too early due to her Kidney disease that was diagnosed 21 years ago, but she enjoyed a quiet & happy life with Denice and their fur-babies. She loved gardening, especially her succulents.

Lenore was preceded in death by her father Morris, her mother Anna and her beloved sister Norma. She is survived by her life partner of 40 years, Denice, her two children Adam and Allison, 4 Grandchildren and 5 Great-grand children. Lenore was blessed with a full life.

A funeral & graveside service for Lenore will be held Sunday, January 29, 2023 at 1:00 PM at Eden Memorial Park, 11500 Sepulveda Blvd, Mission Hills, CA 91345.

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THE WEATHER

Today in Southern California

Windy, with sunshine: Santa Ana winds will be rather strong Thursday as an area of high pressure slides over the Great Basin. The strongest of these winds are expected to occur Thursday morning and early afternoon. Thursday night, winds will diminish below advisory criteria for all areas. Friday will feature slightly lower temperatures with sunshine and just a few clouds.

5-day forecasts

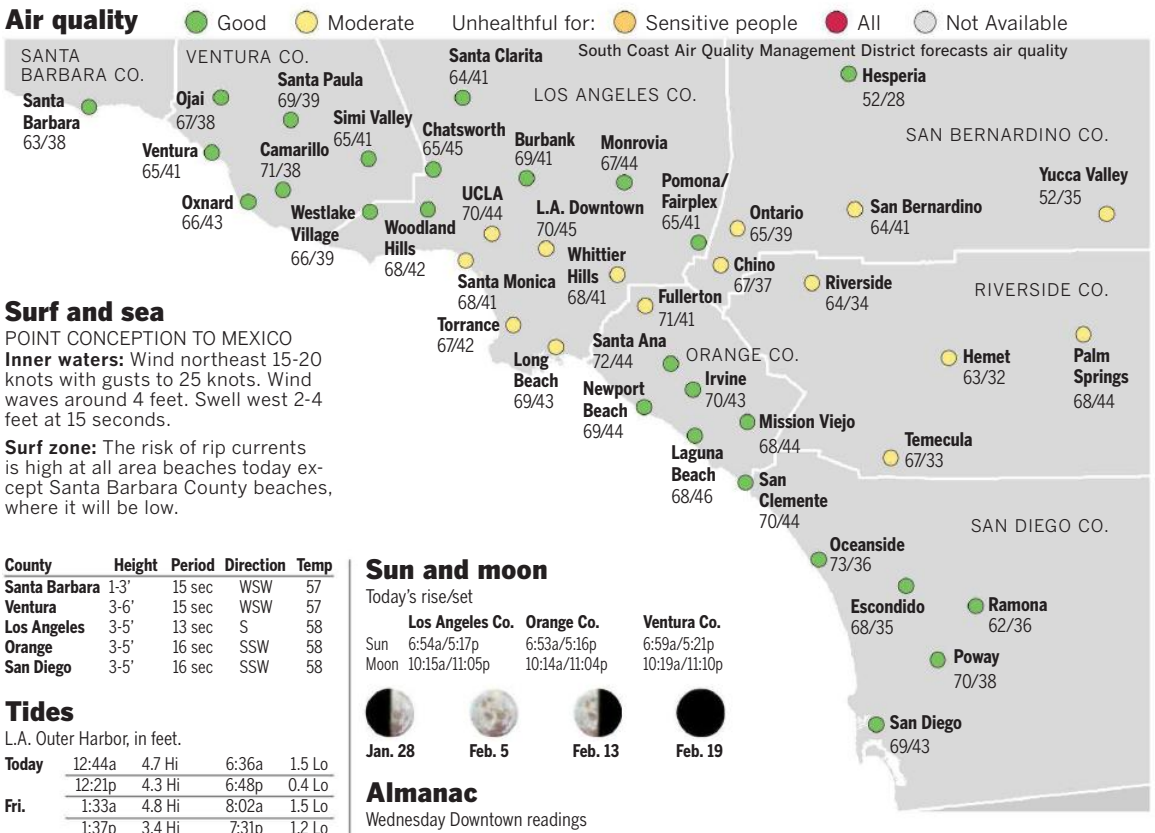
High/low temperatures are average forecasts for entire zone.

	L.A. Basin		Valleys		Beaches		Mountains		Deserts	
Today	70|45		65|44		68|41		35|15		68|44	
	Sunshine		Windy		Sunshine		Sunny; windy, colder		Sunshine	
Friday	Mostly sunny	68/46	Mostly sunny	68/42	Mostly sunny	66/42	Milder	47/22	Sunny	69/44
Saturday	Partly sunny	63/51	Partly sunny	61/47	Partly sunny	60/50	Mostly sunny	44/24	Mostly sunny	66/48
Sunday	Showers	56/47	Showers	53/42	Showers	54/49	Clouds, sun	38/23	Clouds, sun	67/47
Monday	Showers	52/40	Showers	48/41	Showers	53/41	Flurries	31/19	Showers	58/47

Air quality

Good · Moderate · Unhealthful for: Sensitive people · All · Not Available

South Coast Air Quality Management District forecasts air quality



Surf and sea

POINT CONCEPTION TO MEXICO

Inner waters: Wind northeast 15-20 knots with gusts to 25 knots. Wind waves around 4 feet. Swell west 2-4 feet at 15 seconds.

Surf zone: The risk of rip currents is high at all area beaches today except Santa Barbara County beaches, where it will be low.

County	Height	Period	Direction	Temp
Santa Barbara	1-3'	15 sec	WSW	57
Ventura	3-6'	15 sec	WSW	57
Los Angeles	3-5'	13 sec	S	58
Orange	3-5'	16 sec	SSW	58
San Diego	3-5'	16 sec	SSW	58

Tides

L.A. Outer Harbor, in feet.

Today	12:44a	4.7 Hi	6:36a	1.5 Lo
	12:21p	4.3 Hi	6:48p	0.4 Lo
Fri.	1:33a	4.8 Hi	8:02a	1.5 Lo
	1:37p	3.4 Hi	7:31p	1.2 Lo

UV index

Minutes to burn for sensitive people

Las Vegas, 45 · Phoenix, 45
Los Angeles, 45 · San Francisco, 45

Sun and moon

Today's rise/set

	Los Angeles Co.	Orange Co.	Ventura Co.
Sun	6:54a/5:17p	6:53a/5:16p	6:59a/5:21p
Moon	10:15a/11:05p	10:14a/11:04p	10:19a/11:10p

Jan. 28 · Feb. 5 · Feb. 13 · Feb. 19

Almanac

Wednesday Downtown readings

Temperature	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
High/low	73/43	77/41	67/48
Normal high/low	68/49	69/47	66/44
High/low a year ago	67/47	67/45	64/47
Record high/date	86/1986	86/2003	85/2015
Record low/date	36/1898	38/2002	32/1995

Precipitation	Los Angeles	Fullerton	Ventura
24-hour total (as of 5 p.m.)	0.00	0.00	0.00
Season total (since Oct. 1)	13.01	10.94	13.33
Last season (Oct. 1 to date)	10.36	5.47	9.54
Season norm (Oct. 1 to date)	6.57	5.42	7.37
Humidity (high/low)	76/17	85/16	85/22

California cities

City	Wed. Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Friday Hi	Lo
Anaheim	78	44	--	69	42	68	41
Avalon/Catalina	66	46	--	62	50	63	47
Bakersfield	59	35	--	63	39	60	37
Barstow	62	35	--	57	33	61	36
Big Bear Lake	40	16	--	35	15	47	22
Bishop	53	28	--	54	26	59	28
Burbank	72	39	--	69	41	68	45
Camarillo	72	35	--	71	38	64	41
Chatsworth	69	39	--	65	45	67	42
Chino	72	34	--	67	37	69	35
Compton	72	41	--	70	42	68	43
Dana Point	63	38	--	70	44	63	49
Death Valley	74	45	--	67	42	62	45
Del Mar	68	44	--	69	43	66	48
Escondido	74	38	--	68	35	68	36
Eureka	58	35	--	57	39	53	42
Fallbrook	72	46	--	69	38	67	36
Fresno	60	35	--	63	38	61	39
Fullerton	77	41	--	71	41	68	43
Hemet	68	31	--	63	32	70	34
Hesperia	xx	xx	xx	52	28	60	33
Huntington Beach	67	38	--	68	43	62	48
Idyllwild	54	26	--	45	34	56	34
Irvine	73	38	--	70	43	67	45

City	Wed. Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Friday Hi	Lo
L.A. D'ntown/USC	73	43	--	70	45	68	46
L.A. Int'l. Airport	69	41	--	68	46	64	48
Laguna Beach	64	37	--	68	46	62	48
Lancaster	60	25	--	58	23	62	33
Long Beach	75	43	--	69	43	67	45
Mammoth Lakes	41	18	--	36	14	43	21
Mission Viejo	73	40	--	68	44	67	43
Monrovia	71	46	--	67	44	68	43
Monterey	67	40	--	68	43	60	44
Mt. Wilson	52	41	--	45	39	51	35
Needles	63	38	--	61	37	62	39
Newport Beach	63	45	--	69	44	62	50
Northridge	71	38	--	67	42	72	40
Oakland	65	39	--	64	41	61	45
Oceanside	66	33	--	73	36	69	40
Ojai	72	32	--	67	38	67	39
Ontario	70	35	--	65	39	69	41
Palm Springs	74	43	--	68	44	69	44
Pasadena	73	45	--	67	44	67	42
Paso Robles	62	30	--	65	32	64	34
Redding	69	50	--	70	38	59	39
Riverside	68	29	--	64	34	69	36
Sacramento	68	33	--	62	36	59	38
San Bernardino	70	36	--	64	41	69	37

City	Wed. Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Friday Hi	Lo
San Diego	68	41	--	69	43	66	48
San Francisco	68	44	--	65	46	60	46
San Gabriel	xx	xx	xx	68	42	71	39
San Jose	68	39	--	66	41	61	43
San Luis Obispo	72	34	--	71	38	66	41
Santa Ana	69	42	--	72	44	66	48
Santa Barbara	67	35	--	63	38	62	41
Santa Clarita	65	37	--	64	41	69	39
Santa Monica Pier	69	42	--	68	41	66	42
Santa Paula	70	37	--	69	39	66	40
Santa Rosa	75	32	--	70	34	59	35
Simi Valley	67	41	--	65	41	69	37
Tahoe Valley	42	6	--	42	17	46	26
Temecula	69	34	--	67	33	68	35
Thousand Oaks	69	50	--	67	41	68	40
Torrance	68	45	--	67	42	65	46
UCLA	xx	xx	xx	70	44	65	45
Van Nuys	74	40	--	69	42	71	44
Ventura	67	48	--	65	41	62	42
Whittier Hills	74	41	--	68	41	70	39
Woodland Hills	72	33	--	68	42	67	43
Wrightwood	44	30	--	40	33	53	32
Yorba Linda	75	42	--	66	41	68	36
Yosemite Valley	50	28	--	48	30	49	23

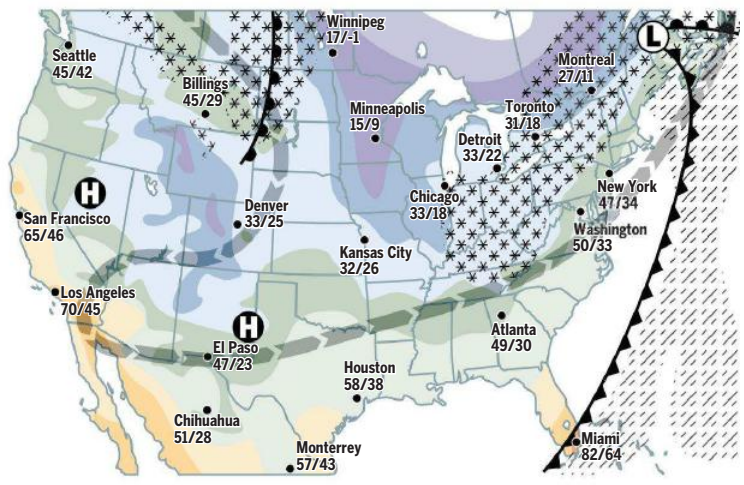
Today in North America

Snowy and cold over the northern Rockies: High pressure will begin to dive southward out of Canada toward the Rockies and Plains as a storm system begins to produce snow in Montana and parts of Colorado and Wyoming. A weak storm will bring snow to the upper Great Lakes.

Pressure: L Low · H High · Warm Front · Cold Front · Jet Stream · Trough

Temps: –0 · 0s · 10s · 20s · 30s · 40s · 50s · 60s · 70s · 80s · 90s · 100+

Rain · T-storm · Snow · Ice



U.S. cities

WEDNESDAY'S EXTREMES FOR THE 48 CONTIGUOUS STATES

High 88 in Titusville, Fla. **Low** –22 in Antero Reservoir, Colo.

City	Wednesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Albany	35	28	.10	40	24	Sn
Albuquerque	41	25	--	37	18	Su
Anchorage	37	30	.02	43	24	Pc
Aspen	21	4	Tr	21	10	Cy
Atlanta	65	46	.73	49	30	Pc
Austin	56	37	--	58	33	Su
Baltimore	52	31	.50	49	32	W
Boise	42	23	--	42	31	Cy
Boston	38	33	.01	52	31	R
Buffalo	38	26	.48	33	26	Sf
Burlington, Vt.	30	19	.11	36	21	Sn
Charleston, S.C.	74	45	.21	59	37	Pc
Charlotte	52	39	1.09	53	28	Pc
Chicago	34	31	.31	33	18	Sn
Cincinnati	46	32	.42	34	23	Sf
Cleveland	43	33	.36	34	24	Sf
Columbia, S.C.	66	39	1.18	55	32	Su
Columbus	47	31	.65	36	24	Sf
Dallas/Ft.Worth	44	35	.07	55	33	Su
Denver	31	18	.02	33	25	Cy
Detroit	33	30	.52	33	22	Sf
El Paso	54	30	--	47	23	Pc
Eugene	42	32	--	46	36	Pc
Fort Myers	84	66	.97	72	52	Cy
Hartford	36	30	.09	48	28	W
Honolulu	84	69	--	79	65	Pc
Houston	52	42	--	58	38	Su
Indianapolis	34	32	.66	31	17	Sf
Jacksonville, Fla.	83	49	.01	61	37	Cy
Kansas City	36	33	.30	32	26	Cy
Knoxville	62	38	.68	42	26	Sf
Las Vegas	56	36	--	56	35	Su
Louisville	49	38	.51	35	25	Sf
Medford	53	24	--	51	33	Pc
Memphis	40	36	.61	40	31	Cy
Miami	84	74	Tr	82	64	Cy
Milwaukee	36	30	.25	32	18	Sn
Minneapolis	27	24	.04	15	9	Cy
Nashville	55	42	.33	39	27	Sf
New Orleans	54	51	.41	57	41	Pc
New York	50	35	.37	47	34	W
Norfolk	61	33	.55	54	34	Pc
Oklahoma City	44	32	.10	46	29	Su
Omaha	29	23	Tr	28	25	Pc
Orlando	86	61	--	68	44	Pc
Philadelphia	57	29	.41	47	32	W
Phoenix	62	37	--	63	37	Su
Pittsburgh	45	28	.32	35	25	Sf
Portland, Ore.	48	41	--	49	43	Pc
Providence	39	29	.01	52	30	R
Raleigh/Durham	65	29	.46	54	30	Pc
Reno	45	20	--	45	21	Pc
Richmond	59	30	.59	52	30	Pc
St. Louis	37	34	.45	30	22	Cy
Salt Lake City	32	20	.07	37	29	Cy

City	Wednesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Seattle	46	37	Tr	45	42	Pc
Tampa	82	67	--	63	47	Pc
Tucson	59	31	--	58	33	Su
Tulsa	44	32	.19	45	32	Pc
Washington, D.C.	47	35	.46	50	33	Pc
Wichita	39	29	.12	40	27	Pc

World

City	Wednesday Hi	Lo	Prcp.	Today Hi	Lo	Sky
Acapulco	86	67	--	86	68	Su
Amsterdam	34	32	.25	46	35	Pc
Athens	54	50	.04	58	46	R
Bangkok	84	70	--	88	71	Pc
Barcelona	57	41	.14	52	35	Pc
Berlin	37	33	.01	34	31	Cy
Cabo San Lucas	73	51	--	77	54	Hz
Cairo	71	54	--	72	56	Su
Dubai	74	64	.38	73	60	Sh
Dublin	49	48	.90	46	33	Pc
Havana	86	68	--	84	66	Sh
Ho Chi Minh City	90	73	Tr	88	74	Cy
Hong Kong	58	48	--	68	57	Cy
Istanbul	43	41	.04	52	49	Cy
Jerusalem	63	45	--	61	45	Su
Johannesburg	85	59	--	81	58	Pc
Kuala Lumpur	85	72	.11	89	74	Sh
Lima	80	68	--	78	68	Pc
London	41	27	.14	46	36	Pc
Madrid	52	29	--	48	30	Cy
Mecca	81	63	.11	82	64	Su
Mexico City	75	49	--	74	42	Su
Montreal	17	10	.15	27	11	Sn
Moscow	28	26	--	32	25	Cy
Mumbai	79	66	--	83	70	Hz
New Delhi	64	54	--	69	47	Hz
Paris	36	35	Tr	41	37	Cy
Prague	34	31	--	33	28	Cy
Rome	55	37	--	55	37	Cy
Seoul	32	1	.07	34	12	Sf
Singapore	80	73	1.88	83	76	Sh
Taipei City	60	46	--	66	54	Pc
Tokyo	56	28	--	45	37	Pc
Vancouver	45	41	.02	44	40	R
Vienna	37	35	Tr	37	30	Cy

Key: **Su** sunny; **Pc** partly cloudy; **Cy** cloudy; **Fg** foggy; **Prcp** precipitation; **Dr** drizzle; **Hz** hazy **Sh** showers; **Ts** thunderstorms; **R** rain; **Sn** snow; **Sf** snow flurries; **I** ice; **Rs** rain/snow; **W** windy; **Tr** trace. **Notes:** National extremes exclude Alaska and Hawaii. Missing data indicated by "xx". Wednesday's readings as of 5 p.m.

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Hurts, Purdy ready for their rematch

[**NFC,** from B10]

That game still lives on YouTube, and the view counts have climbed steadily this week as football fans look to learn more about two of the NFL's more intriguing newcomers.

Hurts, who played his first three seasons at Alabama before finishing his eligibility at Oklahoma, was a 2020 second-round pick of the Eagles and Wednesday was named one of five finalists for NFL most valuable player, joining Josh Allen, Joe Burrow, Justin Jefferson and Patrick Mahomes. The Eagles quarterback threw for 3,701 yards this season with 22 touchdowns and six interceptions in 15 games as the Eagles went 14-1.

"It's been fun to finally see him with the opportunity to have some continuity on offense," USC's Lincoln Riley, former coach at Oklahoma, said by phone Wednesday. "He hasn't had that since high school. That was always kind of an exciting thing when you looked at his potential of what he could be when he finally got in a situation where there was some continuity from a coaching staff and a scheme point of view."

Hurts offered a succinct summation of that 2019 game when asked Wednesday about it: "It was a good day. Glad we won."

It was a big relief for the Sooners at the time, because they were coming off a loss at Kansas State and had not had back-to-back regular-season defeats since 1999.

"You have games like this," Riley said at the time. "You don't want them, especially when you have a chance to separate like we did. But if they happen, you've got to find a way to man up and find a way to win in the end."

Hurts would enter the NFL draft the following spring and was the fifth quarterback off the board. Purdy had a longer wait. He was the ninth quarterback taken last spring and the final player drafted, earning the traditional moniker, "Mr. Irrelevant."

Purdy made San Francisco's roster as the third-string quarterback behind Trey Lance and Jimmy Garoppolo, just as he was the third-stringer at Iowa State in 2018 before being promoted because of an injury and shaky play above him on the depth chart.

SUE OGROCKI Associated Press

JALEN HURTS, above, got the better of Brock Purdy in college when Oklahoma beat Iowa State.

"I got to see him Week 1 when we played the Niners," said former Iowa State tight end Chase Allen, now on the Chicago Bears practice squad. "He was just wearing sweats on the sideline, and that was a rainy, weird game. I got to talk to him in the middle of the field after the game. I was just asking him how things were and congratulating him on making the roster.

"He's like, 'Yeah, man, if I get my shot, I'll be ready.' And sure enough, that time came."

After injuries sidelined Lance and Garoppolo, Purdy was promoted to the starting lineup and Niners Nation held its collective breath. The team has not lost with him at quarterback, closing the regular season with five victories and winning two playoff games. In all, the 49ers have won 12 in a row, their longest winning streak since 1984.

Purdy's college teammates process that head-spinning information with a shrug.

"He's an absolute warrior and a fighter to the very end," said Charlie Kolar, a former Iowa State tight end who plays for the Baltimore Ravens. "If I can look at Brock now and compare it to what he was like in college, I've seen all the crazy scrambles and quick reads, the good throws and good runs. You know what I'm most jealous of?" — with a laugh — "Now he throws the ball away. I never saw *that* in college."

Kolar caught the final touchdown in that game at Oklahoma — Purdy threw five of them — and was wide open on the goal line for the conversion, but Purdy threw elsewhere with a blitzing defender bearing down on him.

Everywhere you looked in that game, there was a future NFL player, including Oklahoma receiver CeeDee Lamb (Dallas), running back Rhamondre Stevenson (New England) and linebacker Kenneth Murray (Chargers), and Iowa State running back Breece Hall (New York Jets).

With his boyish looks and unremarkable stature, the 6-foot-1 Purdy doesn't look the part of a budding star quarterback. He looks more like a next-generation Drew Brees than an Allen or Justin Herbert.

"Purdy is a little different because he always had guts and stones, onions, all of those things," said former NFL quarterback Brock Huard, who broadcast the Cyclones-Sooners game for Fox. "But you see him in person and you're like, 'Ah, small hands, short arms, I don't know if you're going to be able to see and function at the next level.'

"And boy, both he and Jalen have been added to the list of why projecting NFL QBs is such a difficult job. It's not only a crapshoot, but at times it feels like an impossible task."

There was no shortage of believers at Iowa State.

"That game really epitomized the way a lot of Iowa State fans felt about Brock Purdy, and that was he always gave you a chance to win," said play-by-play announcer John Walters, longtime voice of the Cyclones. "You were never out of the game with Brock Purdy as your quarterback."

In that 2019 game, Hurts directed five touchdown drives in the first half to give a Sooners a 21-point lead and seemingly make the outcome a formality.

"I kind of felt like we'd separated," Riley said.

The teams traded touchdowns in the third quarter, but it wasn't until the fourth that the Cyclones really made a game of it.

"I remember the stadium really cleared out after they got up big," Kolar said. "We started coming back and you could actually hear some of the Iowa State fans making some noise in the corner."

These days, both quarterbacks are making some serious noise. Oddsmakers have Mahomes as the favorite to win MVP, but Hurts and Burrow are right behind him.

"I think [Hurts] should win it," Eagles tight end Dallas Goedert said. "I think he's been the biggest piece of what we've done this year. I think he's been incredible all year. ... I'm not even sure who even votes for all that, but hopefully he gets them all."

Both quarterbacks are hoping to make new — and even more spectacular — memories in Sunday's game.

Then again, that's a big ask.

"I think Fox would hope for that same kind of 42-41 down to the wire in the NFC championship game," Huard said. "They would sign up for that right now."

FARMER'S PLAYOFF PICKS

Times NFL writer Sam Farmer examines this week's conference championship games. Lines according to FanDuel. Last week's record 3-1. For the playoffs, 7-3. Using point spreads with the scores Farmer had predicted, the record against the spread last week would have been 3-1. For the playoffs, 4-6. All times Pacific:

NFC CHAMPIONSHIP: No. 2 San Francisco at No. 1 Philadelphia

When: Sunday, noon, Channel 11. **Line:** Eagles by 2½.

How 49ers can win: Christian McCaffrey's calf bruise is slightly concerning, but a healthy Elijah Mitchell makes up for that. The 49ers need to chip away with the run the way they did in the second half against Dallas. Keep doing what they're doing with Brock Purdy, who has yet to look like a rookie. Defensively, stop the run — nobody does it better — and keep everything in front of them. No monster plays.

How Eagles can win: On both sides of the trenches, Philadelphia is as good as it gets. Try to establish the run and don't put the entire game on the arm of Jalen Hurts, and that includes making him part of the running game. Still, against the New York Giants, Hurts didn't look bothered by his shoulder. On defense, limit the big play. San Francisco has so many guys who can hurt you in space. Don't let those 20-yard throws turn into 40 or a touchdown.

Pick: It's so hard to pick against San Francisco, which has won 12 in a row. Purdy has played out of his mind. Still, Hurts looks healthy and the Eagles have just as many weapons, especially with DeVonta Smith and A.J. Brown. The 49ers might struggle to run consistently against that Philadelphia defensive line to really take advantage of their playmakers, and that could be the difference.
EAGLES 24, 49ERS 21

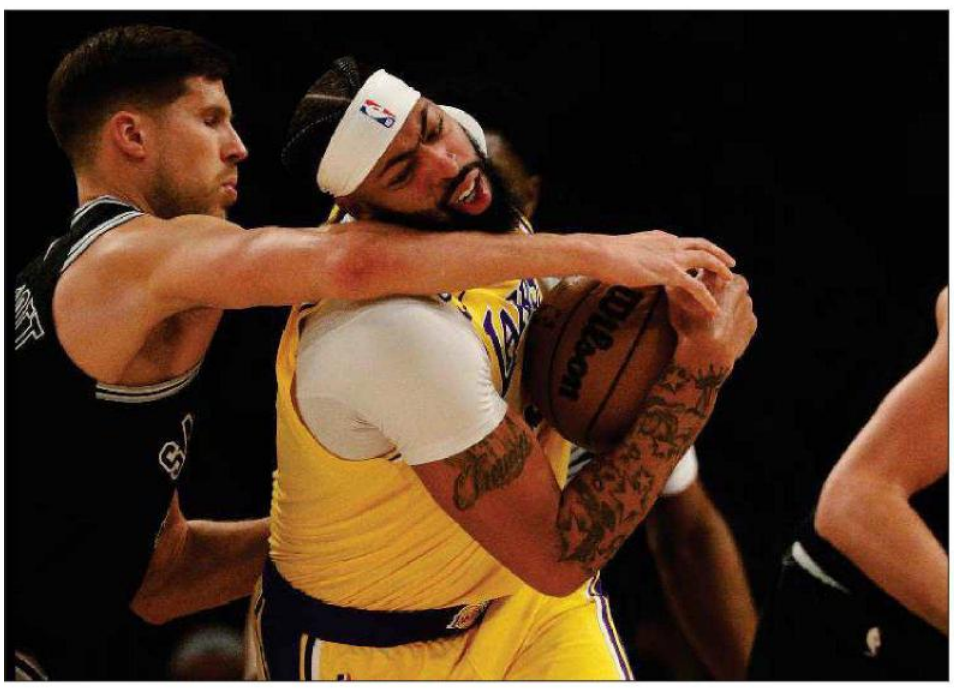
AFC CHAMPIONSHIP: No. 3 Cincinnati at No. 1 Kansas City

When: Sunday, 3:30 p.m., Channel 2. **Line:** Bengals by 1½.

How Bengals can win: Everything runs through quarterback Joe Burrow, but sticking with the ground game and Joe Mixon helps. If that patchwork offensive line plays as well as it did at Buffalo, the Bengals will be fine. Defensively, take advantage of the limited mobility of ailing Chiefs quarterback Patrick Mahomes, and that means getting big games from defensive ends Sam Hubbard and Trey Hendrickson. Mahomes is good from the pocket but not nearly as good as he is with those off-schedule throws. The Bengals can be weak in the secondary at times, but their linebacker play and defensive line are so good, that makes up for it.

How Chiefs can win: Mahomes has to be able to move around a little bit, if only to buy an extra half-second in the pocket. Kadarius Toney could be a key because he can turn small plays into big ones. Defensively, the Chiefs need to get after Burrow and hit him. Whether that's Steve Spagnuolo drawing up a bunch of blitzes, Chris Jones having a big day, whatever, they have to rattle Burrow. Stop the run, and the Chiefs aren't great at that. Latch on to that energy in the building, which the Chiefs will do, because Arrowhead Stadium is a really tough place for visiting teams.

Pick: The Bengals beat Kansas City three times in the 2022 calendar year, so they aren't intimidated. And with Mahomes hopping around on a high-ankle sprain, that makes it really tough for the Chiefs. Kansas City is going to fight and hang in there, and the Chiefs are too well coached to get trampled, but Cincinnati has the momentum here.
BENGALS 27, CHIEFS 21



GINA FERAZZI Los Angeles Times

ANTHONY DAVIS pulls down an offensive rebound and is fouled by the Spurs' Doug McDermott. Davis scored 21 points off the bench in his return from injury.

Davis returns as Lakers pull away

[**Lakers,** from B10]

Ham said after the win. "... Overall, great. A-plus."

The Lakers begin a five-game trip Saturday in Boston.

"I'm happy for him, first and foremost, I know how frustrating this process has been for him, especially at the level at which he was playing," Ham said before the game.

"I'm just happy for him, and definitely happy for us."

Davis took a scary-looking fall near midcourt at the end of the third quarter. He landed awkwardly on his right foot after a shot challenge by Zach Collins. Davis got up, the play was reviewed and he made three free throws after it was ruled a flagrant foul.

"I almost fainted," Ham said. "... That was a huge relief."

Coming off the bench, Davis understandably looked rusty — much different from the MVP-caliber play he had put together before getting injured Dec. 16.

His first shot came from the free-throw line, Lawrence Tanter announcing "Annnnnthony Davis" just before the ball barely grazed the front of the rim.

The first field goal was a swished three-pointer. He added a finish near the rim, a silky turnaround jumper and a two-handed dunk before the end of the first half.

Ham said he wanted Davis to come off the bench so he'd be available under his minutes limit at the close of the game and that he was comfortable with Davis' recovery.

"Well I just think he's gone through some rigorous therapy, weight training, weight bearing exercises, activity on the court — both individually and some group workouts. So we would save him from himself if we thought there was any type of threat or harm that he could do to himself," Ham said.

Davis checked in to a big applause — some of it aimed at Rui Hachimura, who was standing right beside him.

The Lakers' newest acquisition also came off the bench for his team debut, looking as comfortable as expected despite arriving in Los Angeles on Monday night.

"We have a video playbook that he has full access to, that he's been using, looking at. We've also physically, manually put him through some scripting. In particularly this morning, we went through that," Ham said.

Hachimura hit big shots in the Lakers' second-half run, working from the three-point line, the block and at the rim. He finished with 12 points, six rebounds and was a team-best plus-17 in 22 minutes.

The Lakers are headed for a small period of adjustment as they become fully healthy — Lonnie Walker IV was upgraded to questionable before being held out for two more days of rest. Austin Reaves has also begun full-speed work on his injured hamstring.

As a result of Davis and Hachimura being available, Ham didn't use Wenyen Gabriel or Juan Toscano-Anderson in his rotation. Both players helped the Lakers go 10-10 while Davis recovered.

Thomas Bryant, who had replaced Davis in the starting lineup, still started Wednesday but saw a reduction in touches and minutes.

They're the good kind of problems to have, difficult decisions that matter only once the Lakers and Davis are healthy.

LeBron watch

LeBron James' pursuit of the all-time NBA scoring record, held by Kareem Abdul-Jabbar:

- Abdul-Jabbar's points: **38,387**
- James' points: **38,230** (Through Wednesday)
- James' 2022-23 average: **29.9**
- Projected game to break record: **Feb. 7 vs. Oklahoma City**

'That's growth for us': Clippers making strides

Potential is evident as they turn struggles to strengths in promising win over Lakers.

BY ANDREW GREIF

It was late December when Paul George, the Clippers' star wing, delivered the autopsy of a blown 20-point lead in Philadelphia inside the quiet of an empty locker room.

The Clippers had played perhaps their best first half of the season. Then their shot selection went haywire, their defense struggled to rein in the 76ers stars, and a statement win transformed into an indictment defeat as George lamented an inability to be "a team that's just going to finish you."

One month later, George and the Clippers had played maybe their best first half of the season against the Lakers, racking up 77 points and 15 three-pointers and a 23-point lead.

But with 6 minutes 46 seconds remaining in the fourth quarter, they gathered in a huddle inside a howling Crypto.com Arena. Their lead was down to 10, their red-hot shooting had cooled and they had struggled to rein in the Lakers' superlative star in the quarter, as LeBron James dunked and swished three-pointers for 15 of his 46 points.

"We came to the huddle, we said that we were still up 10 points, this team isn't going to quit and we wanted to come out and still push the pace and get those stops," Clippers wing Kawhi Leonard said.

In the process they stopped the comeback cold in a 133-115 win that marked their 10th consecutive victory against the Lakers under coach Tyronn Lue, claimed their third straight win overall and pushed a little closer toward realizing the top-end potential that, like so much else, has been inconsistent for so long.

"We did that in San Antonio, we did that in Dallas and tonight, I thought we've shown, I think we've taken that step of going up late regardless of how the game goes," George said after scoring 27 points with nine rebounds and making three of five shots in the fourth quarter. "It might be a close game, but down the stretch and the fourth, I thought that we've pushed the lead and we extended the lead and put the game away.

"So that's growth for us. That's a step in the right direction. I think for us now, it's just if we can stay healthy, we're building something good here. We just gotta stay healthy."

It wasn't lost on the Clippers (26-24) that they staved off the Lakers by turning areas in which they have struggled into strengths. A defense that had sunk to the NBA's fourth worst in the half court since that Dec. 23 loss in Philadelphia got four stops over the critical 1:39 after the Lakers pulled within 10. During a timeout they switched into a "drop" coverage of James on pick-and-rolls in order to keep Leonard guarding him instead of switching defenders, Lue said.

And when the Clippers needed a big shot, they got one from Reggie Jackson, the embattled point guard who in recent weeks has gone from out of the rotation to the middle of Tuesday's celebration.

When Lakers guard Russell Westbrook threw an out-of-bounds pass well beyond the Lakers' backcourt, George chased it down, falling to the floor and forcing Dennis Schroder to make a quick pass that was intercepted by Leonard for a layup and foul. The lead was 13.

George threw a crisp, cross-court pass to assist Jackson on a three-pointer. The lead was 16.

And finally, after Westbrook lost his dribble for another turnover, Leonard grabbed the loose ball and outran Schroder for a dunk that forced Lakers coach Darvin Ham to empty his bench with five minutes left, conceding defeat. The lead was 18.

The lineup on the floor during the 1:39 that swung the game featured Leonard, George and reserve Norman Powell, the trio that the front office envisioned thriving together upon trading for Powell and forward Robert Covington 11 months ago. Injuries have limited their time as a group, but on Tuesday, the Powell-Leonard-George trio outscored the Lakers by 10 in nearly 11 minutes together. Leonard had 25 points and Powell added 22 off the bench.

During the three-game win streak, the three wings have made 61% of their field goals, 53% of their three-pointers and 97% of their free throws.

"Both of them draw so much attention from the defense, it's just playing off them to be an outlet and finish on the opposite end of the floor," Powell said.

Jackson was a surprise member of the lineup that closed out the win, having lost his starting job nearly three weeks earlier, and with his minutes only recently becoming consistent again because of an abdominal injury sidelining backup guard John Wall. The abrupt role change "was weighing on him a little bit," said George, one of Jackson's close friends.

Jackson's three-pointer on George's assist gave him 19 points in 26 minutes — his most points since Dec. 27 and minutes since Jan. 2.

Lue credited Jackson's ballhandling as doing "a great job of handling the pressure" of the Lakers' guards. Jackson had two turnovers but five assists, and the Clippers outscored the Lakers by 11 in his minutes.

"He's finding his niche, he's finding his way, he's figuring out how to play, he's found his rhythm," George said. "And I think for him he's just having fun again playing ball. Like, he's enjoying the game and you see it."

STANDINGS

Standings have been arranged to reflect how the teams will be determined for the playoffs. Teams are ranked 1-15 by record. The top six teams in each conference qualify for the playoffs. Teams seven through 10 will participate in a play-in tournament with the top-seeded play-in team meeting the lowest qualifying play-in team. The next-lowest qualifying team would play the second, etc. Head-to-head competition is the first of several tiebreakers, followed by conference record. (Western Conference divisions:S-Southwest; P-Pacific; N-Northwest; Eastern Conference divisions: A-Atlantic; C-Central; S-Southeast).

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Denver	34	15	.694		8-2	N1
2. Memphis	31	17	.646	2½	6-4	S1
3. Sacramento	27	20	.574	6	7-3	P1
4. New Orleans	26	23	.531	8	2-8	S2
5. CLIPPERS	26	24	.520	8½	5-5	P2
6. Dallas	25	24	.510	9	3-7	S3
6. Phoenix	25	24	.510	9	5-5	P3
8. Minnesota	25	25	.500	9½	6-4	N2
8. Golden State	24	24	.500	9½	4-6	P4
10. Utah	25	26	.490	10	5-5	N3
11. Oklahoma City	23	25	.479	10½	7-3	N4
11. Portland	23	25	.479	10½	4-6	N5
13. LAKERS	23	26	.469	11	5-5	P5
14. San Antonio	14	34	.292	19½	2-8	S4
15. Houston	11	37	.229	22½	1-9	S5

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Team	W	L	PCT	GB	L10	Rk.
1. Boston	35	14	.714		8-2	A1
2. Philadelphia	31	16	.660	3	8-2	A2
3. Milwaukee	31	17	.646	3½	6-4	C1
4. Brooklyn	29	18	.617	5	4-6	A3
5. Cleveland	29	20	.592	6	4-6	C2
6. Miami	27	22	.551	8	7-3	S1
7. New York	26	23	.531	9	5-5	A4
8. Atlanta	25	24	.510	10	7-3	S2
9. Indiana	24	26	.480	11½	2-8	C3
10. Chicago	22	25	.468	12	6-4	C4
11. Washington	22	26	.458	12½	5-5	S3
12. Toronto	22	27	.449	13	6-4	A5
13. Orlando	19	29	.396	15½	5-5	S4
14. Charlotte	13	36	.265	22	3-7	S5
15. Detroit	12	37	.245	23	2-8	C5

WEDNESDAY'S RESULTS

LAKERS 113, San Antonio 104	Orlando 126, Indiana 120
Philadelphia 137, Brooklyn 133	Washington 108, Houston 103
Minnesota 111, New Orleans 102	Milwaukee 107, Denver 99
Atlanta 137, Oklahoma City 132	Portland 134, Utah 124
Golden State 122, Memphis 120	Toronto 113, Sacramento 95

TODAY'S GAMES

Favorite	Line	Underdog	Time
at CLIPPERS	13	San Antonio	7:30 p.m.
at Brooklyn	9	Detroit	4:30 p.m.
Chicago	5½	at Charlotte	4:30 p.m.
at Boston	7½	New York	4:30 p.m.
Cleveland	7	at Houston	5 p.m.
Dallas	1	at Phoenix	7 p.m.

SCORING LEADERS

Through Tuesday's games

	G	FG	FT	PTS	AVG
Doncic, Dallas	44	500	362	1485	33.8
Embiid, Philadelphia	34	382	340	1142	33.6
Tatum, Boston	46	465	346	1428	31.0
Antetokounmpo, Milwaukee	36	390	307	1114	30.9
Gilgeous-Alexander, Okla. City	43	441	395	1320	30.7
James, LAKERS	38	442	183	1148	30.2
Durant, Brooklyn	39	410	267	1158	29.7
Lillard, Portland	35	310	264	1024	29.3
Mitchell, Cleveland	41	399	206	1159	28.3

LAKERS 113, SPURS 104

SAN ANTONIO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
K.Johnson	33	9-20	4-4	1-5	0	3	25
Sochan	26	6-14	1-1	3-7	3	2	14
Poeltl	22	1-4	3-4	3-8	4	2	5
Bates-Diop	25	5-10	0-0	2-7	2	3	11
T.Jones	26	3-15	0-0	1-3	6	0	6
Richardson	24	3-12	0-0	1-7	3	1	7
Collins	24	6-10	4-4	5-7	2	2	16
McDermott	23	3-10	2-2	0-1	0	3	9
Branham	19	4-9	2-3	0-0	0	2	11
S.Johnson	13	0-2	0-0	1-3	2	1	0
Dieng	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**40-106**	**16-18**	**17-48**	**22**	**19**	**104**

Shooting: Field goals, 37.7%; free throws, 88.9%

Three-point goals: 8-34 (K.Johnson 3-6, Bates-Diop 1-2, Branham 1-4, McDermott 1-4, Sochan 1-4, Richardson 1-6, S.Johnson 0-1, Collins 0-2, T.Jones 0-5). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Bates-Diop, S.Johnson). Turnovers: 14 (S.Johnson 3, Sochan 3, Collins 2, Richardson 2, K.Johnson, McDermott, Poeltl, T.Jones). Steals: 11 (T.Jones 4, Bates-Diop 2, Collins 2, McDermott, Poeltl, Sochan). Technical Fouls: None.

LAKERS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brown Jr.	20	2-4	0-0	1-7	1	1	6
James	35	8-20	3-4	1-9	11	0	20
Bryant	21	2-3	4-4	0-5	0	3	8
Beverley	23	6-12	3-4	0-2	1	0	18
Schroder	37	3-12	2-3	3-8	5	3	9
Westbrook	27	7-15	0-0	0-2	4	4	14
Davis	26	7-15	6-7	5-12	1	2	21
Christie	24	1-2	2-2	0-4	1	0	5
Hachimura	21	4-7	3-6	1-6	1	0	12
Gabriel	0	0-0	0-0	0-1	0	0	0
Tscno-Andrsn	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
D.Jones	0	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**43-85**	**22-28**	**14-44**	**34**	**27**	**124**

Shooting: Field goals, 50.6%; free throws, 78.6%

Three-point goals: 14-32 (Thompson 5-10, Curry 4-8, DiVincenzo 2-4, Poole 2-6, Kuminga 1-1, Lamb 0-3). Team Rebounds: 13. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 5 (Dr.Green 3, DiVincenzo, Kuminga). Turnovers: 21 (Dr.Green 5, Kuminga 4, Curry 3, DiVincenzo 3, Poole 3, Thompson 2, J.Green). Steals: 7 (Curry 2, Dr.Green, J.Green, Looney, Poole, Thompson). Technical Fouls: Green, 6:57 third

Memphis	**22**	**32**	**42**	**24—120**
Golden State	**24**	**29**	**37**	**32—124**

A—18,064.

Warriors 124, Grizzlies 120

MEMPHIS

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Brooks	30	3-9	2-2	1-4	3	4	10
Jackson Jr.	27	4-11	7-8	3-6	0	6	17
Clarke	32	8-10	3-4	1-8	2	4	19
Bane	34	7-17	4-6	0-3	4	3	20
Morant	35	10-20	7-12	1-4	12	3	29
Williams	23	1-7	0-0	0-2	0	3	2
Aldama	20	5-5	1-2	1-3	0	2	13
Jones	18	3-6	1-1	1-1	5	0	7
Tillman	13	1-3	1-2	3-5	0	1	3
Roddy	3	0-0	0-0	0-0	0	0	0
Totals		**42-88**	**26-37**	**11-36**	**26**	**26**	**120**

Shooting: Field goals, 47.7%; free throws, 70.3%

Three-point goals: 10-31 (Aldama 2-2, Jackson Jr. 2-3, Brooks 2-5, Bane 2-7, Morant 2-7, Jones 0-1, Williams 0-6). Team Rebounds: 12. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 3 (Bane, Morant, Williams). Turnovers: 13 (Morant 5, Bane 3, Clarke, Jackson Jr., Roddy, Tillman, Williams). Steals: 10 (Tillman 3, Morant 2, Bane, Brooks, Clarke, Jones, Williams). Technical Fouls: Clarke, 6:57 third.

GOLDEN STATE

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Kuminga	23	5-6	2-2	2-2	5	4	13
Thompson	34	9-23	1-2	2-3	3	3	26
Dr.Green	32	3-3	2-4	0-13	7	5	8
Curry	34	10-19	10-11	0-2	3	3	34
Poole	30	8-14	3-4	1-5	7	5	21
DiVincenzo	34	3-7	0-0	2-4	2	2	8
Looney	20	2-4	0-0	4-8	3	1	4
Lamb	19	2-6	1-2	2-5	3	3	5
J.Green	10	1-3	3-3	1-2	1	1	5
Totals		**43-85**	**22-28**	**14-44**	**34**	**27**	**124**

Shooting: Field goals, 50.6%; free throws, 78.6%

Three-point goals: 14-32 (Thompson 5-10, Curry 4-8, DiVincenzo 2-4, Poole 2-6, Kuminga 1-1, Lamb 0-3). Team Rebounds: 13. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 5 (Dr.Green 3, DiVincenzo, Kuminga). Turnovers: 21 (Dr.Green 5, Kuminga 4, Curry 3, DiVincenzo 3, Poole 3, Thompson 2, J.Green). Steals: 7 (Curry 2, Dr.Green, J.Green, Looney, Poole, Thompson). Technical Fouls: Green, 6:57 third

Memphis	**22**	**32**	**42**	**24—120**
Golden State	**24**	**29**	**37**	**32—124**

A—18,064.

Magic 126, Pacers 120

INDIANA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Hield	38	7-13	1-2	2-4	5	2	21
Nesmith	13	0-5	0-0	0-0	0	3	0
Turner	33	7-16	5-6	5-13	1	1	22
Duarte	38	4-9	6-8	0-2	5	3	16
McConnell	33	8-8	1-1	0-3	8	1	17
Mathurin	32	7-18	10-12	0-3	4	4	26
Brissett	18	2-4	0-0	0-3	1	3	5
Taylor	14	3-7	0-0	2-2	1	2	7
Jackson	12	3-4	0-0	0-1	0	1	6
Queen	4	0-1	0-0	1-1	0	0	0
Totals		**41-85**	**23-29**	**10-32**	**25**	**20**	**120**

Shooting: Field goals, 48.2%; free throws, 79.3%

Three-point goals: 15-35 (Hield 6-10, Turner 3-6, Duarte 2-5, Mathurin 2-6, Brissett 1-1, Taylor 1-3, Queen 0-1, Nesmith 0-3). Team Rebounds: 13. Team Turnovers: 3. Blocked Shots: 5 (Jackson 3, Mathurin, Turner). Turnovers: 14 (Hield 4, McConnell 4, Duarte 2, Nesmith 2, Queen, Turner). Steals: 14 (Duarte 6, Hield 4, Jackson, Mathurin, Nesmith, Turner). Technical Fouls: None.

ORLANDO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Banchero	35	6-14	9-10	1-3	4	4	23
F.Wagner	34	5-11	2-4	0-3	7	1	13
Carter Jr.	27	7-10	3-3	2-10	2	5	18
Fultz	31	5-8	3-4	0-1	8	3	13
G.Harris	26	8-9	0-0	0-1	0	2	22
Anthony	24	4-9	0-0	1-2	5	1	8
Suggs	16	3-6	0-0	1-1	2	1	8
Bol	14	4-6	1-2	2-8	1	1	9
Bamba	12	1-3	1-2	2-3	2	1	4
Isaac	8	2-4	0-0	0-1	2	1	5
M.Wagner	7	1-2	0-0	0-1	1	2	3
Totals		**46-82**	**19-25**	**9-34**	**34**	**22**	**126**

Shooting: Field goals, 56.1%; free throws, 76.0%

Three-point goals: 15-28 (G.Harris 6-6, Suggs 2-3, Banchero 2-6, Bamba 1-1, M.Wagner 1-1, Isaac 1-2, Carter Jr. 1-3, F.Wagner 1-3, Fultz 0-1, Anthony 0-2). Team Rebounds: 13. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 7 (Carter Jr. 2, Anthony, Bamba, Banchero, Bol, Fultz). Turnovers: 17 (Carter Jr. 5, Banchero 4, Fultz 3, Bol 2, F.Wagner 2, M.Wagner). Steals: 8 (Banchero 2, F.Wagner 2, Isaac 2, Fultz, G.Harris). Technical Fouls: Suggs, 00:36 first

Indiana	**29**	**39**	**23**	**29—120**
Orlando	**46**	**27**	**29**	**24—126**

A—18,846. T—2:19.

Raptors 113, Kings 96

TORONTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Anunoby	31	4-9	0-0	0-3	2	1	11
S.Barnes	38	3-8	1-2	2-6	11	4	7
Siakam	34	11-24	2-2	4-11	7	1	26
Trent Jr.	36	7-15	0-0	1-5	3	3	16
VanVleet	37	7-16	1-1	0-4	5	2	17
Achiuwa	28	9-12	0-0	1-5	0	3	19
Boucher	22	7-11	0-0	2-6	0	2	16
Hernangomez	11	0-2	1-2	1-1	1	1	1
Totals		**48-97**	**5-7**	**11-41**	**29**	**17**	**113**

Shooting: Field goals, 49.5%; free throws, 71.4%

Three-point goals: 12-40 (Anunoby 3-6, Boucher 2-4, Trent Jr. 2-6, Siakam 2-8, VanVleet 2-9, Achiuwa 1-3, Hernangomez 0-2, S.Barnes 0-2). Team Rebounds: 11. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 8 (Boucher 3, Siakam 2, VanVleet 2, Anunoby). Turnovers: 9 (Achiuwa 3, VanVleet 2, Anunoby, S.Barnes, Siakam, Trent Jr.). Steals: 12 (VanVleet 4, Anunoby 2, S.Barnes 2, Siakam 2, Boucher, Trent Jr.). Technical Fouls: None.

SACRAMENTO

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
H.Barnes	30	3-7	3-4	0-3	0	0	10
Murray	33	6-10	0-0	0-3	4	2	16
Sabonis	34	4-9	0-0	2-8	4	3	9
Fox	30	7-12	1-1	1-4	8	4	16
Huerter	32	8-12	0-0	0-4	4	1	21
Lyles	22	1-5	4-4	0-5	5	1	6
Monk	19	2-7	2-2	0-1	2	0	8
Mitchell	17	2-5	0-0	0-1	1	0	4
Metu	15	1-5	0-0	1-5	1	1	2
Holmes	3	1-1	2-2	0-0	0	0	4
Totals		**35-73**	**12-13**	**4-34**	**29**	**12**	**96**

Shooting: Field goals, 47.9%; free throws, 92.3%

Three-point goals: 13-32 (Huerter 5-9, Murray 4-7, Sabonis 1-1, Fox 1-2, Monk 1-3, H.Barnes 1-4, Metu 0-1, Mitchell 0-2, Lyles 0-3). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 2 (Huerter, Lyles). Turnovers: 19 (Sabonis 9, Fox 4, Huerter 2, Mitchell 2, H.Barnes, Monk). Steals: 6 (Sabonis 3, Huerter, Lyles, Metu). Technical Fouls: Fox, 9:57 third.

Toronto	**24**	**34**	**26**	**29—113**
Sacramento	**23**	**27**	**17**	**28— 96**

A—17,767. T—1:59.

76ers 137, Nets 133

BROOKLYN

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
J.Harris	20	3-4	0-0	0-2	0	6	8
O'Neale	34	3-7	1-2	0-4	5	2	8
Claxton	38	11-12	3-6	4-11	2	5	25
Irving	38	9-15	10-11	0-2	10	2	30
Simmons	28	5-7	2-3	0-5	5	4	12
Curry	34	11-20	3-3	0-0	4	2	32
Watanabe	25	4-7	2-2	1-4	2	2	11
Warren	9	1-2	0-0	0-1	1	1	2
Morris	6	1-1	0-0	1-2	0	2	2
Sumner	4	1-1	0-0	0-0	0	0	3
Totals		**49-76**	**21-27**	**6-31**	**29**	**26**	**133**

Shooting: Field goals, 64.5%; free throws, 77.8%

Three-point goals: 14-26 (Curry 7-10, J.Harris 2-3, Irving 2-5, Sumner 1-1, Watanabe 1-3, O'Neale 1-4). Team Rebounds: 2. Team Turnovers: None. Blocked Shots: 4 (Claxton 2, Simmons, Watanabe). Turnovers: 16 (O'Neale 5, Irving 4, Curry 2, Simmons 2, J.Harris, Sumner, Watanabe). Steals: 3 (Irving 2, Curry). Technical Fouls: coach Jacque Vaughn, 9:07 first

PHILADELPHIA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
T.Harris	32	7-11	3-3	1-4	2	0	18
Tucker	17	1-3	4-4	3-3	2	1	6
Embiid	34	6-18	13-13	2-10	3	4	26
Harden	35	6-12	6-7	0-3	7	4	23
Melton	33	7-10	2-2	2-4	2	3	19
Maxey	30	8-14	5-5	0-3	5	1	27
Niang	16	0-2	0-0	0-3	1	1	0
Milton	15	2-4	0-0	1-3	3	1	4
Thybulle	12	3-5	2-2	2-2	1	2	10
Harrell	11	2-3	0-0	0-1	0	2	4
Totals		**42-82**	**35-36**	**11-36**	**26**	**19**	**137**

Shooting: Field goals, 51.2%; free throws, 97.2%

Three-point goals: 18-38 (Maxey 6-9, Harden 5-10, Melton 3-6, Thybulle 2-4, T.Harris 1-2, Embiid 1-5, Milton 0-1, Niang 0-1). Team Rebounds: 5. Team Turnovers: 2. Blocked Shots: 4 (Melton 3, Harden). Turnovers: 9 (Harden 6, Embiid 2, Niang). Steals: 10 (Thybulle 3, Embiid 2, Harden 2, Maxey 2, Melton). Technical Fouls: Harden, 4:59 first

Brooklyn	**41**	**24**	**33**	**35—133**
Philadelphia	**41**	**34**	**32**	**30—137**

A—19,772. T—2:32.

Hawks 137, Thunder 132

ATLANTA

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Bogdanovic	34	7-11	2-4	1-4	4	2	20
Collins	30	7-12	4-4	4-10	2	4	19
Capela	27	8-8	2-6	5-10	0	2	18
Murray	38	9-19	2-2	0-2	3	3	21
Young	34	10-20	10-11	0-3	11	0	33
Griffin	23	2-4	4-4	0-4	3	0	9
Okongwu	20	4-5	0-0	1-5	2	4	8
Johnson	17	2-3	2-2	0-8	0	1	6
A.Holiday	13	1-2	0-0	0-0	1	0	3
Totals		**50-84**	**26-33**	**11-46**	**26**	**16**	**137**

Shooting: Field goals, 59.5%; free throws, 78.8%

Three-point goals: 11-29 (Bogdanovic 4-7, Young 3-6, A.Holiday 1-2, Collins 1-3, Griffin 1-3, Murray 1-8). Team Rebounds: 8. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 6 (Okongwu 2, Bogdanovic, Capela, Johnson, Murray). Turnovers: 16 (Young 5, Murray 4, Okongwu 3, A.Holiday, Bogdanovic, Collins, Griffin). Steals: 5 (Griffin 2, Bogdanovic, Capela, Okongwu). Technical Fouls: Murray, 00:03 second

OKLAHOMA CITY

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Dort	27	4-10	1-2	3-3	4	3	12
Jal.Williams	37	11-16	1-2	1-5	2	5	24
K.Williams	30	4-10	0-0	2-7	7	3	9
Giddey	29	8-19	0-1	2-8	6	2	16
Gilgous-Alxndr	36	13-22	9-10	2-5	7	3	36
Bazley	15	2-3	0-1	0-0	0	1	4
Joe	14	3-7	0-0	0-2	0	2	9
Wiggins	14	3-4	0-0	1-4	2	1	9
Mann	12	1-4	0-0	0-1	2	2	2
Muscala	10	2-4	0-0	0-0	0	0	6
Dieng	10	2-3	0-0	1-2	1	1	5
Totals		**53-102**	**11-16**	**12-37**	**31**	**23**	**132**

Shooting: Field goals, 52.0%; free throws, 68.8%

Three-point goals: 15-34 (Wiggins 3-4, Dort 3-6, Joe 3-7, Muscala 2-4, Gilgeous-Alexander 1-1, Jal-.Williams 1-1, Dieng 1-2, K.Williams 1-6, Giddey 0-1, Mann 0-2). Team Rebounds: 4. Team Turnovers: 1. Blocked Shots: 2 (Gilgeous-Alexander 2). Turnovers: 11 (Gilgeous-Alexander 4, Dort 2, Giddey 2, Jal.Williams, K.Williams, Wiggins). Steals: 12 (Jal.Williams 4, Dort 2, Giddey 2, Gilgeous-Alexander 2, Mann, Wiggins). Technical Fouls: None.

Atlanta	**39**	**38**	**32**	**28—137**
Oklahoma City	**43**	**34**	**27**	**28—132**

A—15,079. T—2:08.

Wizards 108, Rockets 103

WASHINGTON

	Min	FG-A	FT-A	OR-T	A	P	T
Kispert	20	2-8	2-2	1-4	2	2	7
Kuzma	41	12-25	4-5	1-9	2	1	33
Gafford	32	3-6	3-5	3-8	2	2	9
Beal	29	7-17	3-4	0-3	4	0	17
Wright	25	2-6	0-0	2-3	4	2	5
Avdija	29	4-13	1-2	2-10	3	3	10
Nunn	22	5-9	0-0	2-4	4	1	12
Goodwin	14	1-4	2-2	0-1	2	0	5
Barton	8	2-5	3-3	1-2	2	0	8
Gibson	8	1-2	0-0	1-1	1	3	2
Carey Jr.	6	0-3	0-0	2-3	1	2	0
Totals		**39-98**	**18-23**	**15-48**	**27**	**16**	**108**

Shooting: Field goals, 39.8%; free thro

THE DAY IN SPORTS

Omenihu to play for 49ers despite recent arrest

WIRE REPORTS

San Francisco defensive lineman **Charles Omenihu** will be available to play in the NFC title game despite his arrest on a misdemeanor domestic violence allegation.

Coach **Kyle Shanahan** said Wednesday the team would wait for the legal process to resolve after Omenihu was accused of pushing his girlfriend to the ground during an argument Monday.

"If he's healthy, he'll play this week," Shanahan said. "We've looked into it the last 48 hours. ... We feel very good that the legal process will take care of itself. We don't feel we should kick him off our team at this time."

The NFL will review the matter under the league's personal conduct policy, but Omenihu is available until that is completed.

Omenihu, 25, is in his second season with the 49ers as part of their line rotation.

ETC.

Mahomes says he's 'ready to go'

Kansas City Chiefs quarterback **Patrick Mahomes** walked through Arrowhead Stadium as if nothing was amiss, his sprained right ankle hardly hampering him as he began preparing for the AFC title game against Cincinnati.

Mahomes went through a normal morning walkthrough and then headed out for an afternoon practice, four days after a Jacksonville pass rusher landed on his ankle and forced him to hobble off the field in pain.

"AFC championship week," Mahomes said with a smile. "I'm ready to go."

A Nevada judge delayed a long-awaited hearing until March 22 to determine whether former Las Vegas Raiders player **Henry Ruggs** will stand trial in a fatal 2021 crash, saying it can't proceed until the case is properly assigned. ... Irish MMA fighter **Conor McGregor** is under investigation in Spain after being accused of physical assault in Ibiza, court officials said.

Damian Lillard scored 60 points for the Portland Trail Blazers in a 134-124 win over the Utah Jazz. Lillard had eight assists and seven rebounds to become the first player in NBA history with three games of at least 60 points, five assists and five rebounds. ... **Brandon Ingram** returned to the New Orleans Pelicans lineup after missing two months with a toe injury, scoring 13 points in a 111-102 loss to Minnesota. ... Milwaukee forward **Bobby Portis** (sprained knee, ankle) will sit out at least the next couple of weeks.

The San Jose Sharks traded forward **Matt Nieto** and defenseman **Ryan Merkley** to the Colorado Avalanche for defenseman **Jacob MacDonald** and forward **Martin Kaut**. ... Pittsburgh Penguins goaltender **Tristan Jarry** will sit out at least two games because of an upper-body injury.

Left-hander **Jeffrey Springs** avoided arbitration and agreed to a $31-million, four-year contract with the Tampa Bay Rays that could be worth $65.75 million over five seasons.

Washington State football coach **Jake Dickert** agreed to a contract extension through 2027. ... Louisiana State accidentally overpaid coach **Brian Kelly** by $1 million during the first year of a 10-year, $100-million contract but discovered the error and has moved to correct it, the Louisiana Legislative Auditor's office said.

Chris Armas, who spent part of his MLS career with the Galaxy, was hired as an assistant coach at Leeds United of the English Premier League. ... The late **Grant Wahl** will be honored with this year's Colin Jose Media Award, given to journalists who made long-term contributions to soccer in the United States.

A day after securing record World Cup victory No. 83, **Mikaela Shiffrin** added her 84th win in another giant slalom on the same course, finishing 0.82 seconds ahead of two-time Olympic silver medalist **Ragnhild Mowinckel** in Italy. ... **Loic Meillard** beat his teammate **Gino Caviezel** to lead a Swiss 1-2 finish at a floodlit World Cup giant slalom in Austria.

Aslikyan small but mighty on the mat

ERIC SONDHEIMER
ON HIGH SCHOOLS

Wearing a black tank top and black sweat pants, 102-pound freshman wrestler Henry Aslikyan of Lake Balboa Birmingham High grimaced each time he pulled on the lat machine trying to lift 132 pounds as a spotter provided support.

Already at a slight disadvantage facing wrestlers who weigh 106 pounds,Aslikyan, who is 5 feet 2 and 15 years old, has started trying to gain strength. Competing in the lightest weight class, Aslikyan is an aspiring Mighty Mouse moving at lightning-like speed around the mat.

"He's always trying to create new movements and opportunities," coach James Medeiros said.

Aslikyan will be the heavy favorite in his weight class to win a City Section championship on Feb. 11, but the real test will come at the state championships in Bakersfield Feb. 23-25. He has won four tournaments this season but also faced several defeats against top competition.

"I noticed matches I lost I made mistakes," he said. "I'm trying to fix them."

He has been wrestling much of his life thanks to his father, Meruj, a successful wrestler in Armenia who offers tips and advice.

"The thing I like the most is he's one of the easiest kids to coach," said Medeiros, who used to wrestle Aslikyan's father in club competitions.

Aslikyan traveled to Colombia last year and won his weight class at the Pan American Games for under-15 wrestlers. He's a wrestling equivalent to a gym rat in basketball.

He watches videos, goes for runs in the morning, trains with a club team during the week and waits for his growth spurt.

"I'm already getting taller every day," he said. "I'm trying to gain weight. I don't have much fat."

ERIC SONDHEIMER L.A. Times

FRESHMAN Henry Aslikyan is favored to win City 106-pound title.

Yes, there are competitors who might weigh 120 pounds and gradually lose pounds to make lower weight classes. Aslikyan doesn't have that issue for now.

He knows he's in the 106-pound class, which sometimes is the best class.

"When they're that small, they're really fast and a lot of times guys who wrestle at that weight are kids who wrestled all their lives. The real elite kids start off at that weight class and move up," Meideros said.

The 106-pound weight competition is usually the first of a dual match and can set the tone for a team. Aslikyan welcomes the challenge and spotlight.

"I know I work hard and am determined to keep on going nonstop," he said. "Sometimes it's scary when you know someone is better than you. Wrestling is a mental sport. As long as you know you can do it, you do your best and have fun."

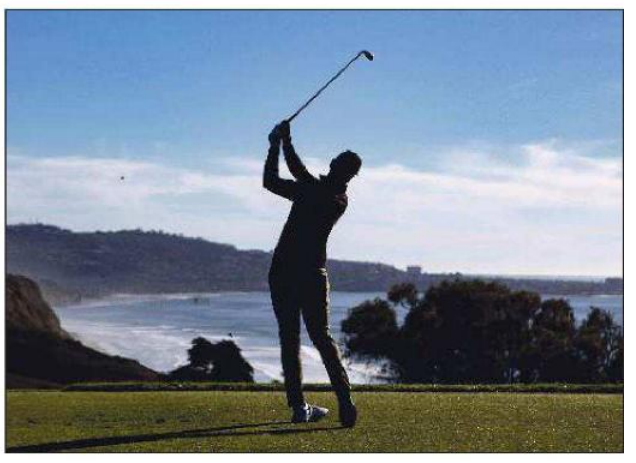
It's Aslikyan's love for wrestling that comes out during competition and in the practice room.

"He has a great attitude," Medeiros said.

Even when a heavyweight wrestler decides to occasionally lift him up to test their own strength, Aslikyan laughs and doesn't flinch.

"It's a perfect example of skill and technique winning over size and strength," Meideros said.

One day the heavyweight could get some competition from the lightest one on the mat.



MEG MCLAUGHLIN San Diego Union-Tribune

BRENT GRANT, who shared the first-round lead, tees off on the 16th hole at Torrey Pines Golf Course.

A postcard-worthy first round for some

But not for Rahm, whose bid to win a third straight start goes into the rough.

BY KIRK KENNEY

SAN DIEGO — Taking the tee for the opening round of the Farmers Insurance Open is like arriving for spring training — everyone is brimming with optimism and believes they have a chance to win.

The course hasn't yet knocked such notions out of them, especially those who start on the relatively easier North Course.

So dare to dream, Sam Ryder, Aaron Rai and Brent Grant.

There isn't a PGA Tour title among them. Heck, Grant is a tour rookie. But they share the first-round lead after each shot eight-under 64 on Wednesday on the North Course.

"I'm thankful to be out here and thankful for this good round," Grant said, balancing the positives with what it's taken to get here, "but so far it's been one hell of a grind and it's not going to stop, it never does. So to think that I've made it or that I've done something special doesn't aid me in any way."

It can be a grind, even for the best of them.

World No. 3 Jon Rahm, aiming to win his third straight start, had a frustrating day on the South Course, carding a one-over 73.

One young fan, holding a sign that read "I skipped school to see you win Jon Rahm," was given a ball by the Spaniard during the round.

There was another ball Rahm wished he had back on the par-four seventh hole. His second shot flew over the green and went out of bounds, and Rahm was forced to take a particularly painful double bogey.

"The rough is thick as always," Rahm said. "No. 7 was arguably the best swing of the day, [but] that cost me two shots.

"I mean, I've hit that shot over 25 times in the past with the same wind and I've never seen a ball get pin-high, and today I don't know what happened."

On the ninth hole, Rahm slammed his club to the ground in anger after his shot landed in the sand.

A birdie on the par-three 16th hole prevented it from being worse. Still, Rahm must pass the 115 golfers ahead of him over the next three days if he is to make it three tournament wins in a row.

"The main thing on the round today, with the tee shots I hit on 6, 7, 12 and 13, I was three over par," Rahm said. "In any other given round that I've played here in the past, I'm actually playing that at least even par to under par, so it's easily a three- to five-shot swing, and that's the difference."

The first-day leaderboard included more players trying to make a name for themselves than those with established resumes.

Brendan Steele, Ryder's playing partner, was a stroke back of the leaders at 65. Seven players were at 66. They included Sam Stevens and Andrew Novak, who posted the best scores on the South.

Defending champion Luke List opened with a 67 on the North Course, the same score posted by Collin Morikawa.

Two-time Farmers champion Jason Day shot 68 on the North Course. That tied him with Justin Thomas, who played the South Course.

Kenney writes for the San Diego Union-Tribune.

Holguin is last piece of the Mamba legacy

[**Holguin,** from B10]

first Mamba Academy practice, Holguin's mentor still motivates every day. In every drill. One more rep for him.

Kobe Bryant's lessons still echo in her head.

Even though you're young, I'm going to put you in there. You've got to push it.

Even if you're missing, keep shooting, it'll fall.

At Bryant's funeral after the Jan. 26, 2020, helicopter crash that killed nine, including his daughter Gianna, Payton Chester and Alyssa Altobelli — all Holguin's teammates with Mamba — Holguin's father, James, remembered someone saying, "there's 11 girls in the world who have been coached by Kobe Bryant."

Holguin is the last of them to reach high school. And she came to Sage Hill, in part, because she was the last piece of an old puzzle scattered by tragedy: Bryant's plan for an elite group of girls to play together through high school.

The last piece of a legacy.

::

The final words in Holguin's Twitter bio, now introducing her at Sage Hill as part of the class of 2026, is a hashtag: "#4the8" — signifying the eight passengers on board the helicopter who died.

"I'm doing it for them," Holguin said.

The team was getting ready to play a game that morning when players heard the news, said the mother of one girl, Emily Eadie. After that, she added, they never left one another's side.

Bryant's vision, Eadie's father said, was to have all the Mamba girls play together at Sage Hill, just minutes from the Lakers legend's Newport Coast home. And juniors Eadie, Zoie Lamkin, Annabelle Spotts and Kat Righeimer have stuck together from their Mamba days, now the core of the Lightning. The Holguins strongly considered Mater Dei, but Amalia's former teammates had been lobbying for Sage Hill since middle school, Eadie said.

Together they're keeping the Mamba mentality alive and doing what Bryant coached them to do: get wins. The Lightning are off to a 16-8 start, including 3-0 in league play.

"I just wanted to continue on that journey and get all these dubs," Holguin said, "and carry on Kobe and Gigi's legacy."

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

AMALIA HOLGUIN, who is averaging 15 points and 2.7 steals, caught Kobe Bryant's attention in a youth game. "I can make her great," Bryant told her dad.

The journey began in May 2018, back when the Mambas played under the name "Riptide" and had a game against Holguin's youth-ball team. Afterward, Bryant came up to her father, who still remembers the conversation.

"Is No. 10 your daughter?" Bryant said.

"Yeah," he replied.

"She's really special," Bryant said. "I can make her great."

Bryant identified the chip on her shoulder, Mamba trainer Alex Bazzell remembered. Saw Holguin competing against girls two or three grades above her. Saw a special mentality. And so he invited her to the next day's practice.

The team needed a tall girl — a "big" — and Bryant assured Mamba parents that he was looking to recruit one. Instead they got Holguin, a tiny 10-year-old walking onto a team of 12- and 13-year-olds.

"The girls were like, 'This is not a big,' " Holguin said, smiling.

::

One of Holguin's first experiences with the Mamba Academy girls was what Bazzell called "hell week."

These were middle-school girls doing three-a-day workouts for a weekend: starting in the morning at 6, then moving to yoga and weight training. Then self-defense class. Then more workouts. On and on. It was Bryant's way of instilling in them his legendary work ethic, with Bazzell his drill sergeant.

"It was kind of an interesting tactic," Bazzell said. "People may say that's a little over the top, but [Kobe] always had a rule: If you don't want to be here, if you don't want to show up, that's your choice."

The purpose, Bazzell remembered, was to judge just how great the Mamba girls wanted to be. Want to play Division I? Want to play in the WNBA? This is what it takes.

So Holguin pushed. Eventually, Bazzell remembered, the girl broke down from sheer exhaustion. Collapsed into tears. Didn't want to stop — just couldn't continue.

And Bryant went and picked her up, made Holguin laugh and canceled the rest of the weekend, Bazzell said.

The coach had seen all he needed to see.

"It was more of an affirmation than anything else, that she was willing and able to get herself to that point of being uncomfortable," Bazzell said.

Initially, Bryant's plan was to create multiple Mamba teams and have Holguin play with a lower age group, Eadie's mother said. But Holguin fit right in with the older girls, and stuck. And Bryant's decision to bet on her gave her fearlessness, her father said.

"[Kobe] gave me that confidence," Holguin said.

::

She was the young one then and still is, now tasked with running the show for a Sage Hill team hoping to compete with top dogs Chatsworth Sierra Canyon, Etiwanda and Mater Dei in the Open Division. The former Mambas are the program's core, feeling complete with Holguin.

Trying to carry the torch for the ones they lost.

"As a group, there's a legacy and a commitment to excellence that was instilled in them," Walters said. "I think that it will never go away for them. Not even when they have their own children. I think it'll still be ingrained into them."

Holguin's talent can take her anywhere, Bazzell said. And there have been jaw-dropping highs in her freshman season, Holguin averaging 15 points and 2.7 steals a game. There also have been lows: occasional missed reads, turnovers, poor shot selection.

Mistakes will happen. She's young, Walters said, and growing. But the coach has watched Holguin from a distance since she was in the fifth grade, taking on older Mambas in practice. He's known the potential Bryant saw in her.

And Walters knows the confidence won't waver.

"She's a fighter," Walters said.

"And she doesn't quit."

So Holguin unwraps the next piece of gum.

GOLF LEADERS

$8.7-MILLION FARMERS INSURANCE OPEN
At La Jolla—Par 72
Torrey Pines, a-South Course—7,765 yards; b-North Course—7,258 yards
18-hole leaders

Brent Grant	32b-32b—64	-8
Aaron Rai	31b-33b—64	-8
Sam Ryder	33b-31b—64	-8
Brendan Steele	33b-32b—65	-7
Hayden Buckley	34b-32b—66	-6
Garrick Higgo	32b-34b—66	-6
Harry Higgs	31b-35b—66	-6
Andrew Novak	35a-31a—66	-6
Sam Stevens	32a-34a—66	-6
Sahith Theegala	34b-32b—66	-6
Gary Woodland	33b-33b—66	-6
Ben Griffin	33a-34a—67	-5
Lanto Griffin	33b-34b—67	-5
Seonghyeon Kim	35b-32b—67	-5
Luke List	34b-33b—67	-5
Taylor Montgomery	33a-34a—67	-5
Collin Morikawa	34b-33b—67	-5
Vincent Norrman	35a-32a—67	-5
Byeong Hun An	34b-34b—68	-4
Wyndham Clark	32b-36b—68	-4
Jason Day	33b-35b—68	-4
Thomas Detry	34b-34b—68	-4
Paul Haley	34b-34b—68	-4
Charley Hoffman	33b-35b—68	-4
Max Homa	33b-35b—68	-4
Sungjae Im	31a-37a—68	-4
Satoshi Kodaira	32b-36b—68	-4
Justin Suh	36b-32b—68	-4
Justin Thomas	33a-35a—68	-4
Jhonattan Vegas	34b-34b—68	-4
Dylan Wu	34b-34b—68	-4
Will Zalatoris	33b-35b—68	-4
Joseph Bramlett	34a-35a—69	-3
Scott Brown	34b-35b—69	-3
MJ Daffue	34b-35b—69	-3
Stephan Jaeger	34a-35a—69	-3
Si Woo Kim	35a-34a—69	-3
Michael Kim	34b-35b—69	-3
Peter Malnati	35b-34b—69	-3
Maverick McNealy	33b-36b—69	-3
Keita Nakajima	35b-34b—69	-3
Sean O'Hair	35b-34b—69	-3
Taylor Pendrith	37b-32b—69	-3
Scott Piercy	33a-36a—69	-3
Davis Riley	36b-33b—69	-3
Patrick Rodgers	35b-34b—69	-3
Michael Thompson	34a-35a—69	-3
Joey Vrzich	33b-36b—69	-3
Jimmy Walker	34a-35a—69	-3
Keegan Bradley	33a-37a—70	-2
Cameron Champ	33a-37a—70	-2
Zecheng Dou	33a-37a—70	-2
Nicolas Echavarria	34b-36b—70	-2
Harrison Endycott	35b-35b—70	-2
Dylan Frittelli	36a-34a—70	-2
Tano Goya	34a-36a—70	-2
Adam Hadwin	36a-34a—70	-2
Lee Hodges	33a-37a—70	-2
J.B. Holmes	37b-33b—70	-2
Patton Kizzire	33a-37a—70	-2
Ben Martin	33b-37b—70	-2
Hideki Matsuyama	35b-35b—70	-2
Seung-Yul Noh	34b-36b—70	-2
Henrik Norlander	35b-35b—70	-2
Robby Shelton	32a-38a—70	-2
J.J. Spaun	36b-34b—70	-2
Robert Streb	36b-34b—70	-2
Brian Stuard	36b-34b—70	-2
Ben Taylor	33b-37b—70	-2
Kyle Westmoreland	36a-34a—70	-2
Aaron Baddeley	36b-35b—71	-1
Zac Blair	36b-35b—71	-1
Dean Burmester	36a-35a—71	-1
Trevor Cone	35b-36b—71	-1
Austin Eckroat	34a-37a—71	-1
Cody Gribble	39b-32b—71	-1
Bill Haas	36b-35b—71	-1
Harry Hall	34a-37a—71	-1
Cole Hammer	35a-36a—71	-1

American Paul keeps rising

He beats compatriot Shelton in four sets and faces a semifinal against Djokovic.

ASSOCIATED PRESS

MELBOURNE, Australia — Tommy Paul received a lot less attention than his younger, less-experienced, opponent, Ben Shelton, heading into their all-American quarterfinal at the Australian Open.

Perhaps that was a product of the fascination with the out-of-nowhere Shelton: Just 20, and less than a year after winning an NCAA title for the University of Florida, he was traveling outside of the United States for the first time and participating in his second Grand Slam tournament.

So the shouts heard most often from the Rod Laver Arena stands Wednesday were for one of the pair: "Let's go, Benny! Let's go!" or "Benny, Benny, Benny! Oi, Oi, Oi!" or "Go, Gators!"

"He had a pretty good trip," Paul noted.

Paul's story is a pretty good one too, and it is the one that will continue at Melbourne Park: The 25-year-old was a star in the juniors and now is making good on that promise in the pros, using a 7-6 (6), 6-3, 5-7, 6-4 victory over Shelton to reach his first Grand Slam semifinal in his 14th appearance at a major.

"I like to think the last four years of my career has just been like steady steps moving up," Paul said. "I mean, that's what it's felt like. I feel like hopefully 2023 is the year where I really make a big jump."

Paul's next opponent will be 21-time Grand Slam singles champion Novak Djokovic, who overwhelmed No. 5 seed Andrey Rublev 6-1, 6-2, 6-4. After dealing with a worrisome left hamstring in his first two matches, Djokovic has been on quite a roll: He has won his last 11 sets and dropped a total of 27 games in that span as he chases a 10th championship in Melbourne.

The other semifinal Friday pits Stefanos Tsitsipas and Karen Khachanov.

After extending his winning streak at the Australian Open to 26 matches, equaling Andre Agassi for the longest run there in the Open era, Djokovic looked ahead to facing Paul for the first time.

"I know how he plays. He's been around for a few years. I watched him play quite a bit, especially during this tournament. He's been playing probably tennis of his life," Djokovic said. "Very explosive, very dynamic player."

DITA ALANGKARA Associated Press

NOVAK DJOKOVIC'S win streak at the Australian Open stands at 26 after his quarterfinal victory.

TENNIS RESULTS

$54-MILLION AUSTRALIAN OPEN
At Melbourne
Surface: Hard-outdoor

MEN'S SINGLES (quarterfinals)—Tommy Paul d. Ben Shelton, 7-6 (6), 6-3, 5-7, 6-4; Novak Djokovic (4), Serbia, d. Andrey Rublev (5), Russia, 6-1, 6-2, 6-4.

MEN'S DOUBLES (quarterfinals)—Jason Kubler-Rinky Hijikata, Australia, d. Wesley Koolhof, Netherlands-Neal Skupski (1), Britain, 6-3, 6-1.

(Semifinals)—Hugo Nys, France-Jan Zielinski, Poland, d. Fabrice Martin-Jeremy Chardy, France, 6-3, 5-7, 6-2; Jason Kubler-Rinky Hijikata, Australia, d. Marcel Granollers, Spain-Horacio Zeballos (8), Argentina, 6-4, 6-2.

WOMEN'S DOUBLES (quarterfinals)—Elena-Gabriela Ruse, Romania-Marta Kostyuk, Ukraine, d. Storm Sanders, Australia-Elise Mertens (4), Belgium, 7-6 (6), 2-6, 6-4; Jessica Pegula and Coco Gauff (2), d. Zhaoxuan Yang, China-Hao-Ching Chan (11), Taiwan, 6-1, 6-1.

MIXED DOUBLES (semifinals)—Rohan Bopanna-Sania Mirza, India, d. Neal Skupski, Britain, and Desirae Krawczyk (3), 7-6 (5), 6-7 (5), 10-6; Rafael Matos-Luisa Stefani, Brazil, d. Marc Polmans-Olivia Gadecki, Australia, 4-6, 6-4, 11-9.

PRO CALENDAR

	THU 26	FRI 27	SAT 28	SUN 29	MON 30
LAKERS			at Boston 5:30 Ch. 7		at Brooklyn 4:30 SpecSN
CLIPPERS	SAN ANTONIO 7:30 BSSC		at Atlanta 4:30 BSSC	at Cleveland 4 BSSC	
KINGS		at Florida 4 BSW	at Tampa Bay 4 BSW		
DUCKS	at Colorado 6 BSW		ARIZONA 7:30 BSW		

Shade denotes home game.

TODAY ON THE AIR

TIME	EVENT	ON THE AIR
BASKETBALL		
4:30 p.m.	New York at Boston	**TV:** TNT
7 p.m.	Dallas at Phoenix	**TV:** TNT
7:30 p.m.	San Antonio at Clippers	**TV:** BSSC **R:** 570, 1330
COLLEGE BASKETBALL		
2 p.m.	St. Francis (NY) at Wagner	**TV:** CBSSN
3 p.m.	Boston College at Miami	**TV:** BSSC
3 p.m.	Women, Louisville at Wake Forest	**TV:** ACC
3:30 p.m.	Women, Michigan at Maryland	**TV:** Big Ten
4 p.m.	Southern Methodist at Memphis	**TV:** ESPN2
4 p.m.	Women, Alabama at Arkansas	**TV:** SEC
4 p.m.	Southern Illinois-Edwardsville at Tennessee Tech	**TV:** ESPNews
4 p.m.	Middle Tennessee State at Florida Atlantic	**TV:** CBSSN
4 p.m.	Longwood at Radford	**TV:** ESPNU
4 p.m.	Iowa at Michigan State	**TV:** FS1
5 p.m.	Connecticut at Tennessee	**TV:** ESPN
5 p.m.	Women, Virginia Tech at Duke	**TV:** ACC
5:30 p.m.	Women, Ohio State at Indiana	**TV:** Big Ten
6 p.m.	UCLA at USC	**TV:** ESPN2 **R:** 790, 1150
6 p.m.	Purdue at Michigan	**TV:** FS1
6 p.m.	Women, Mississippi State at Mississippi	**TV:** SEC
6 p.m.	Louisiana Tech at Alabama Birmingham	**TV:** CBSSN
6 p.m.	Texas San Antonio at North Texas	**TV:** ESPNU
6 p.m.	Colorado at Oregon	**TV:** Pac-12
7 p.m.	UC Irvine at Cal State Fullerton	**TV:** SpecSN **R:** 830, 88.9
8 p.m.	Arizona at Washington State	**TV:** FS1
8 p.m.	Utah at Oregon State	**TV:** Pac-12
8 p.m.	Arizona State at Washington	**TV:** ESPNU
FIGURE SKATING		
6 a.m.	ISU European Championships, women's short program	**TV:** E!
3:30p.m.	U.S. Championships, rhythm dance	**TV:** USA
6 p.m.	U.S. Championships, women's short program	**TV:** USA
GOLF		
Noon	Farmers Insurance Open, second round	**TV:** Golf
11:30 p.m.	DP World Tour, Dubai Desert Classic	**TV:** Golf
HOCKEY		
6 p.m.	Ducks at Colorado	**TV:** BSW **R:** Duck Stream
SOCCER		
12:15 p.m.	Portugal, Benfica at Pacos Ferreira	**TV:** GOLTV
7 p.m.	Mexico, Santos Laguna at Atlas	**TV:** TUDN
TENNIS		
7:30 p.m.	Australian Open, men's first semifinal	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND
12:30 p.m. (Fri.)	Australian Open, men's second semifinal	**TV:** ESPN, ESPND

NHL STANDINGS

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Pacific	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Seattle	28	14	5	61	172	145
Vegas	29	17	3	61	158	142
KINGS	27	17	6	60	163	170
Edmonton	27	18	4	58	180	160
Calgary	23	16	9	55	154	146
Vancouver	19	26	3	41	161	194
San Jose	14	25	10	38	147	187
DUCKS	14	29	5	33	118	201
Central	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Dallas	28	13	9	65	171	130
Winnipeg	31	17	1	63	161	128
Colorado	26	17	3	55	144	126
Minnesota	25	17	4	54	145	134
Nashville	23	18	6	52	131	137
St. Louis	23	22	3	49	152	172
Arizona	15	28	5	35	125	175
Chicago	14	28	4	32	110	168

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Metropolitan	W	L	OL	Pts	GF	GA
Carolina	30	9	8	68	154	126
New Jersey	31	12	4	66	164	123
NY Rangers	26	14	8	60	153	128
Pittsburgh	24	15	8	56	155	144
Washington	25	19	6	56	158	142
NY Islanders	23	22	5	51	144	143
Philadelphia	20	21	8	48	136	159
Columbus	15	30	3	33	125	186
Atlantic	**W**	**L**	**OL**	**Pts**	**GF**	**GA**
Boston	38	5	4	80	181	98
Toronto	30	11	8	68	166	129
Tampa Bay	30	15	1	61	167	137
Buffalo	25	19	3	53	180	160
Florida	23	21	6	52	171	176
Detroit	20	18	8	48	141	155
Ottawa	21	23	3	45	135	153
Montreal	20	25	3	43	127	175

Note: Overtime or shootout losses worth one point.

RESULTS

AT OTTAWA 2 N.Y. ISLANDERS 1	Claude Giroux's second-period power-play goal was the winner. Goalie Cam Talbot left the game with an injury.
AT TORONTO 3 N.Y. RANGERS 2 (OT)	Mitch Marner scored 19 seconds into overtime and the Maple Leafs won a matchup of conference contenders.
CAROLINA 3 AT DALLAS 2 (OT)	Martin Necas scored 1:34 into overtime to lift the Hurricanes in a matchup of division leaders.
COLUMBUS 3 AT EDMONTON 2 (OT)	Kent Johnson scored 2:29 into overtime and the Oilers' winning streak was stopped at six games.
AT SEATTLE 6 VANCOUVER 1	Two goals by Oliver Bjorkstrand led the rout. It was Bjorkstrand's first multiple-goal game of the season.

TODAY'S GAMES

DUCKS at Colorado, 6 p.m.	Boston at Tampa Bay, 4 p.m.
Detroit at Montreal, 4 p.m.	Pittsburgh at Washington, 4 p.m.
Buffalo at Winnipeg, 5 p.m.	New Jersey at Nashville, 5 p.m.
Philadelphia at Minnesota, 5 p.m.	Chicago at Calgary, 6 p.m.
St. Louis at Arizona, 6 p.m.	

SOUTHLAND

MEN

California Baptist 74, at Texas Arlington 66: Taran Armstrong scored 24 points with five rebounds and seven assists to lift the Lancers (13-8, 5-3) over the Mavericks (7-15, 2-7) in a Western Athletic Conference game.

MEN TONIGHT

UCLA at USC 6
Portland at Loyola Marymount 7
San Diego at Pepperdine 7
Long Beach State at Cal Poly 7
UC Irvine at Cal State Fullerton 7
UC San Diego at Cal State Northridge 7
UC Santa Barbara at Hawaii 9

TOP 25 COLLEGE BASKETBALL

No. 2 Alabama prevails

ASSOCIATED PRESS

Jahvon Quinerly scored 14 points and No. 2 Alabama rallied from a 10-point deficit in the second half to beat Mississippi State 66-63. The Crimson Tide had to climb out of a hole and then hold on two days after reaching the program's highest ranking since rising to No. 1 in the 2002-03 season. The result was a ninth straight win and the first real scare during that stretch.

No. 13 Xavier 82, at No. 19 Connecticut 79: Souley Boum scored 21 points, Colby Jones added 20 and the Musketeers held off Connecticut. The win gave the Musketeers (17-4, 9-1 Big East) a season sweep over the Huskies (16-6, 5-6).

Results

MEN'S TOP 25
No. 2 Alabama 66, Mississippi State 63
No. 3 Houston 82, Central Florida 71
No. 4 Tennessee 70, Georgia 41
No. 13 Xavier 82, No. 19 Connecticut 79
Texas A&M 79, No. 15 Auburn 63
No. 23 Providence 79, Butler 58

PAC-12
Stanford 72, Chicago State 65

WOMEN'S TOP 25
Texas 78, No. 14 Oklahoma 58
No. 18 Iowa State 75, Texas Christian 35

7-footer has given Trojans a new look, Cronin says

[**USC,** from B10]
that grew to 14 games. USC, in the meantime, has won three of four since its furious second-half comeback fell short in the first matchup, the Trojans finally finding their stride after an uneven start to the season.

"We've really improved as a team," USC coach Andy Enfield said. "We're playing much better offensively. Defensively, we're still tough."

And with Iwuchukwu, the Trojans might have finally found what they've sorely been lacking in the frontcourt. That disparity was on display in the first half of their first meeting, as USC was bullied on the boards and outmuscled by UCLA underneath. The lackluster start led Enfield to bench regular big man Josh Morgan and plug 6-10 stretch forward Harrison Hornery in his place.

Now, USC has a five-star forward rounding into form, opening up a world of possibilities for its approach to upending UCLA, which still holds a 1½-game lead atop the Pac-12 standings.

"When he steps into his full stride, that's when you're gonna see Vince be Vince," freshman guard Tre White said. "In practice, we see some crazy things out of Vince. When it translates onto the court, we're gonna be used to it, but y'all gonna be shocked, for real."

The Bruins boast their own blue-chip freshman big man facing a critical point in his first collegiate season. Adem Bona has shown flashes of brilliance mixed with lapses of inconsistency, both of which made their presence known in his first clash with USC.

After Bona dominated the first half, shutting down USC on the interior, Enfield's move to use the 6-10 Hornery as a stretch five forced Bona out of his comfort zone. He didn't attempt a shot in the second half, as UCLA managed a mere four points in the paint after halftime.

"Last game, they were able to put Harry Hornery on him," Cronin said. "With Adem, it's always, you know, trying to be aggressive with staying out of foul trouble on defense. On offense, we've got to throw the ball to him. When he's open deep in the paint, we've got to do a better job of passing."

Another star freshman for UCLA could also be making a return Thursday. Dynamic first-year guard Amari Bailey will be available to play, Cronin said Wednesday, after missing the last month because of a lingering foot issue. The freshman averaged 9.5 points, 3.3 rebounds and 2.3 assists over the season's first 13 games, establishing himself as a critical part of the Bruins backcourt. As UCLA makes its case for a No. 1 seed in the coming weeks, he could play an important role.

USC is still in the early stages of integrating its own star freshman. Iwuchukwu, who started under a strict minutes restriction, played just 14 and 15 minutes, respectively, in his last two outings after debuting the week before against Colorado. It's unclear how much longer he might be able to play against UCLA — or how long his minutes could be restricted.

"He's certainly improved dramatically since the Colorado game," Enfield said. "So as he gets his timing back and gets in better shape, understands the speed of the game and gets his strength [back], you'll see him keep improving."

It's an encouraging thought for USC, which finds itself tied for third place in the Pac-12, firmly among the conference's crowded second tier. Thursday marks a critical opportunity to separate itself from that pack and add to its NCAA tournament resume. Whether it can probably depends on how quickly Iwuchukwu can grow in his role in the coming weeks.

His teammates have made clear how thrilled they are with the pace at which Iwuchukwu is progressing. But in his mind, his teammates say, the process hasn't moved fast enough.

"He's hard on himself," White said. "So in the locker room after games, he's like 'Damn, I could've done this, this, this.' I'm like, 'Bro, it takes a couple games to get used to college. I didn't start cooking until a couple games in. Like, you're doing great. You're impacting the game.'

"Now he's getting his feet under him. And the proof is in the pudding."

White has seen firsthand how far Iwuchukwu has come since last July. He remembers vividly the day that his friend collapsed on the court. To watch him come this far, this quickly has lifted the whole team, he says.

"I'm always watching him now — the whole team is — just making sure he's OK, off the court too. Because that's a traumatic experience," White said. "And just to see him running up and down, being Vince, it's what he's here for. It's crazy to see it come full circle."

ROSS D. FRANKLIN AP

VINCE IWUCHUKWU, who had 12 points against Arizona State, provides a strong inside presence.

ASHLEY LANDIS Associated Press

JALEN NEAL of the Galaxy, one of several players debuting for the U.S., kicks Serbia's Nikola Stulic.

U.S. takes first step toward next World Cup

[**Soccer,** from B10]
the U.S. was unable to call in the European-based core of its roster. Instead, caretaker coach Anthony Hudson summoned five players from last year's World Cup team and 13 others who had never appeared in a game for the senior national team.

But then the journey to becoming a World Cup player also begins with a single step and the January camp often has provided that: Since 1999, 30 men who made their first or second appearance for the national team in the first camp of a calendar year have gone on to play in a World Cup, among them Landon Donovan, Clint Dempsey and Jozy Altidore, the three leading scorers in team history.

That's a track record Hudson is hoping to build on, continuing the philosophy of Gregg Berhalter, who tried out 88 players while putting together the best record for a men's coach in U.S. Soccer history in his four years in charge. Hudson's starting lineup Wednesday including seven debutantes and three others playing just their second game with the U.S. The Americans hadn't seen that many starters make their international debut in one game since 1988.

"Overall I was really pleased with the performance," said Hudson, an assistant during last month's World Cup who is running the team as U.S. Soccer mulls its future with Berhalter, whose contract expired at the end of last year. "Individually there were some really, really big performances. I thought we showed a lot of bravery. Very attack-minded. I love the fact that players were really driving to get forward.

"I'm disappointed obviously with the result. But the way they went about the game was [positive]."

Seven starters are dual nationals and two of them teamed up to give the U.S. the early lead, with Brandon Vázquez heading in Julian Gressel's long cross from the right wing in the 29th minute. But after a solid opening half-hour, the team's youth and inexperience showed up, allowing Serbia to tie the score on Luka Ilic's free kick through the U.S. wall just before the intermission, then take the lead less than a minute into the second half when Nikola Stulic poked the ball away from a tentative Jalen Neal and into the path of teammate Veljko Simic, who banged home a right-footed shot from the center of the box.

Cade Cowell, one of five teenagers on the U.S. roster, had two chances to tie the score 10 minutes later, but he banged shots off both posts just 20 seconds apart. The U.S. won the possession battle handily and outshot Serbia 20-11, but just five of those tries were on target.

SPORTS

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 :: LATIMES.COM/SPORTS

Trojans freshman making strides

7-foot Iwuchukwu providing spark six months after suffering cardiac arrest.

By Ryan Kartje

The few glimpses were brief but breathtaking. A put-back dunk. A pick-and-roll layin. A fierce challenge at the rim. All blips of a bright future stretched over 14 minutes of a blowout win in Tempe.

Vince Iwuchukwu was still finding his footing Saturday, still working his way back to full strength, six months after suffering cardiac arrest during a summer workout. The fact the freshman was playing at all at this point in USC's season, given all he'd been through, was noteworthy. But by his fourth game back, as he scored 12 points off the bench against Arizona State, providing a spark on both ends of the court, the implications of the 7-footer's arrival for USC had become abundantly clear to anyone watching. Including the rival coach across town.

"They are a different team now with Vince," UCLA coach Mick Cronin said this week.

The Trojans will have the chance to prove as much Thursday, when they welcome No. 8 UCLA to Galen Center, three weeks after their last meeting at Pauley Pavilion went down to the wire. UCLA ultimately escaped that outing with a late Jaylen Clark three-pointer, extending a winning streak

[See **USC,** B9]

MEN'S BASKETBALL

UCLA AT USC

AT GALEN CENTER
Tonight, 6
TV: ESPN2

KOBE'S LEGACY: THREE YEARS LATER

Allen J. Schaben Los Angeles Times

AMALIA HOLGUIN, a freshman point guard at Newport Beach Sage Hill, is the last player Kobe Bryant coached at Mamba Academy to reach high school. Three teammates are Mamba alums.

She's keeping alive Mamba mentality

Mentor's influence ingrained in Holguin, his youngest disciple

By Luca Evans

Stephen Curry has his mouthguard. Amalia Holguin has her gum.

By this point in her freshman season at Newport Beach Sage Hill, defenders have started pressing so close in Holguin's airspace, they could guess the flavor. It's usually mint. Sometimes orange. Holguin started with gum in the sixth grade; didn't like mouthpieces but had to be chewing something. So she pops in a new piece before every quarter.

"Keeps it fresh," Holguin said, grinning.

In a mid-January game against Orange County power Santa Ana Mater Dei, Holguin is hounded every time she touches the ball, picked up full-court, face-guarded. She goes coast to coast for a layup, hits a deep three.

> 'By the end of her time in high school, she'll be one of the best guards that's ever stepped on the court.'
>
> — Kerwin Walters, Sage Hill coach

All the while, she chomps her gum.

Sage Hill coach Kerwin Walters doesn't want robots, he says. He wants "swagger." And Holguin has it, flinging one-handed, cross-court passes, cashing threes with a slingshot form reminiscent of Chino Hills-era Lonzo Ball. She creates highlights. She makes mistakes. But her confidence is extraordinary, never a hint of frustration passing over the 14-year-old's face.

"By the end of her time in high school," Walters said earlier in the season, "she'll be one of the best guards that's ever stepped on the court."

You can't teach confidence. But you can mold it. And more than four years after she walked into her

[See **Holguin,** B8]

LAKERS GET BIG LIFT AS DAVIS RETURNS

All-Star center plays 26 minutes in first game since Dec. 16 and scores 21 in win.

LAKERS 113
SAN ANTONIO 104

By Dan Woike

No designer sweater. No expensive sunglasses. No custom pants.

On Wednesday, Anthony Davis was in the standard-issue purple Nike warmups with the team's iconic golden jersey underneath, the wait for his on-court return about to be over.

In the seconds before he checked in, the San Antonio Spurs pounded the offensive glass to steal two points.

By the time he left the floor seven minutes later, Davis had found a defensive rhythm, swatting two straight shots to remind everyone what the Lakers had been missing.

After sitting out 20 games because of a bone spur, a fracture and a stress reaction all in his right foot, the Lakers got their star big man back — albeit in limited action — just in time for a crucial stretch.

Davis led them in scoring and rebounding, the Lakers beating the Spurs 113-104, dominating the fourth quarter.

He scored 21 points in 26 minutes to go with four blocks and 12 rebounds. LeBron James nearly had a triple-double with 20 points, 11 assists and nine rebounds, and Patrick Beverley scored 18.

"I thought he looked good," Lakers coach Darvin

[See **Lakers,** B7]

Clippers starting to show potential

After uneven first half of season, they stepped up in victory over Lakers. B7

First step toward '26 World Cup

U.S. men's team gives newcomers a shot and they show promise as well as inexperience.

SERBIA 2, U.S. 1

By Kevin Baxter

Every journey begins with a single step. The challenge, however, is knowing which way to go and how long it will take to get there.

The U.S. men's national soccer team, currently without a permanent coach, general manager or any real sense of direction, doesn't know either of those things. Yet it took an uneven first step on its journey to the next World Cup on Wednesday just the same, dropping a 2-1 decision to Serbia before a sparse crowd at newly christened BMO Stadium.

With the U.S. co-hosting the 2026 World Cup, alongside Canada and Mexico, the pressure already is building for the Americans to make a deep run in the tournament. The U.S. has gotten as far as the quarterfinals just once in the modern era, and anything short of the final eight in 2026 would be considered a disappointment.

Wednesday's young, inexperienced team won't be the World Cup one; lacking a FIFA competition window,

[See **Soccer,** B9]

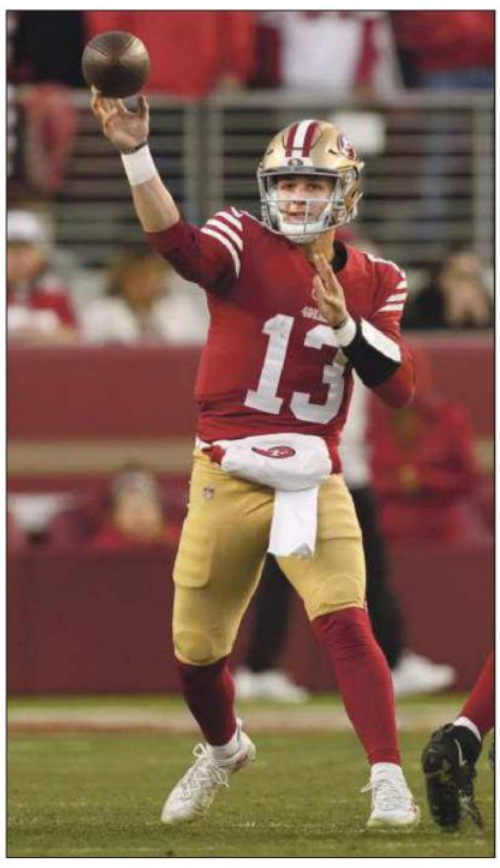
NFL :: CONFERENCE FINALS

San Francisco at Philadelphia
LINCOLN FINANCIAL FIELD
Sunday, noon | TV: Ch. 11

Cincinnati at Kansas City
ARROWHEAD STADIUM
Sunday, 3:30 p.m. | TV: Ch. 2

Will sequel eclipse the original?

Purdy and Hurts were part of a college classic and now the Super Bowl is on the line



Tony Avelar Associated Press

BROCK PURDY is 7-0 since taking over as 49ers quarterback and the team is on its longest winning streak (12) since 1984.

SAM FARMER
ON THE NFL

The San Francisco 49ers will play at the Philadelphia Eagles on Sunday for the right to represent the NFC in the Super Bowl. Much of the focus will be on the two young quarterbacks, Philadelphia's Jalen Hurts and San Francisco's Brock Purdy, with everyone watching to see how they will handle the pressure of the moment.

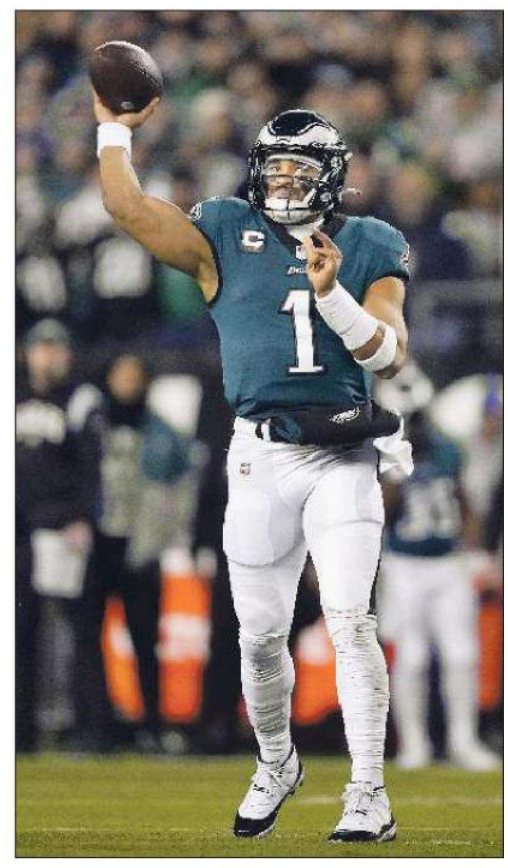
Hurts and Purdy have been here before.

Not in the NFC championship game, but they have been in a college-football crucible, matching each other score for score on a big stage. The quarterbacks combined to throw and run for 11 touchdowns in 2019 when Hurts' Oklahoma Sooners held off Purdy's surging Iowa State Cyclones to secure a 42-41 victory. The game was decided when Purdy's two-point conversion pass was intercepted with 24 seconds left.

For Purdy, the 49ers' remarkable rookie, that loss at Oklahoma still stings. Yet it was one of many learning experiences he leans on as he prepares for the biggest game of his young career.

"In terms of the environment and everything, those kinds of games definitely helped," he told reporters Wednesday. "Just a lot being on the line, focusing on the moment, focusing on what's in front of you, focusing on the defense rather than getting caught up in the crowd and that kind of stuff. I played in a couple of those games in college, and it's a great experience for me to go back to how I felt."

[See **NFC,** B6]



Matt Rourke Associated Press

JALEN HURTS was 14-1 as the Eagles starting quarterback this season and is one of the front-runners for NFL MVP.

Los Angeles Times

E

CALENDAR

THURSDAY, JANUARY 26, 2023 ⁝ LATIMES.COM/CALENDAR

ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

POST 43, facing declining membership and prominence, spent $6 million to turn its theater into a world-class venue that hosts Hollywood screenings and premieres.

Dancing provided joy, safe haven

Why the ballroom has long been a draw for older immigrants in Southern California.

BY MATT PEARCE AND AUGUST BROWN

When a gunman fatally shot 11 people and wounded nine others in Monterey Park over the weekend, it was more than just the latest tragedy in America's horrific mass-shooting epidemic.

The gunman attacked the Star Ballroom Dance Studio, one of the best-known hubs of the vibrant Asian American ballroom dance community in Southern California — a longtime safe haven for older immigrants, the kind of place where they knew they would be welcomed.

"In Asia, ballroom is an incredibly popular sport and social dance," said Marisa Hamamoto, a professional ballroom and salsa dancer in L.A. who had been to Star on occasion.

"Ballroom is one big activity where Asians are able to gather and meet people with that shared experience. It's a place to find belonging and connection," said Hamamoto.

"Many Asian Americans are traumatized by this. When we started seeing photos of victims, we can't help but feel like these people are our parents and grandparents. Especially after all the xenophobia during COVID, it's triggering."

All of the victims slain at the ballroom studio — who included immigrants from Taiwan, China and the Philippines — were in their 50s,

[See **Ballroom,** E2]

A poetic soul remembered

Tonya Ingram, who died at 31 waiting for a kidney, spent her life making poetry and art accessible to all. **E3**

Comics **E4-5**
Puzzles **E4**

SALUTING THE MOVIES

How American Legion Post 43 did an about-face and became a hot spot for Hollywood premieres

MARY McNAMARA

On what felt like the first dry night of 2023, the stars and creators of Rian Johnson's new Peacock series, "Poker Face," made their way down a custom-styled gray carpet in front of a phalanx of photographers shouting their names — Natasha Lyonne, Benjamin Bratt, Maya Rudolph, Adrien Brody, Ron Perlman.

Other A-list guests, including Amy Poehler, Taika Waititi, Awkwafina, Kate Hudson, Tracee Ellis Ross and Fred Armisen, emerged from black Escalades to join them in front of the cameras or simply mingle.

Then they all made their glamorous way into a gorgeous new state-of-the-art theater smack dab in the middle of ... the headquarters of Hollywood Post 43 American Legion.

For those desperately seeking a bright spot in another disappointing year at the box office, here's one: With an increasingly robust calendar of screenings, film festivals and high-wattage premieres, the Hollywood Legion Theater is restoring the luster to a Legion branch built by film industry founders and known for years as "the post to the stars."

The new demand for big premieres from streaming services like Peacock has benefited many local venues, but the Legion's growing place in that increasingly luxe stratosphere is no accident. Way back in 2016, then-Post 43 Commander Fernando Rivero decided that the best way the 105-year-old organization could fight the dwindling membership and fading cultural relevance that afflicts so

[See **Legion,** E6]

TELEVISION REVIEW

'Poker Face' hits the jackpot

Love 'Columbo'? You'll devour this TV comfort food starring Natasha Lyonne.

ROBERT LLOYD
TELEVISION CRITIC

"Poker Face," a new series starring Natasha Lyonne and created by Rian Johnson of "Knives Out"/"Glass Onion" fame, is a work of pure pleasure, a comedy-mystery with roots that reach down half a century into the heyday of broadcast television. Its specific antecedents are "Columbo," whose opening credits it apes, in that we first see the murder and then watch the star bring the killer to justice; and "The Fugitive," in that Lyonne's character is on the run and finds herself in a new place, wrapped in a new drama, every week. (I say drama, which is true enough given that people are killed, but "Poker Face," which premieres Thursday on Peacock, is on balance a comedy, and a consistently funny one.)

It also calls back to an earlier age in that it is firmly episodic and follows a formula. That isn't to say it's uninspired — what keeps the formula from becoming formulaic are the writing, acting and staging, which tell us a lot in a little time without ever feeling baldly expository or manipulative. But each episode has a simi-

[See **'Poker Face,'** E2]

EVANS VESTAL WARD Peacock

NATASHA LYONNE is the lie-detecting Charlie.

COMMENTARY

Awards overlook Black women

ILZE KITSHOFF Sony Pictures

VIOLA DAVIS and "The Woman King" were considered front-runners for much of the year yet didn't end up with any Academy Award nominations this week.

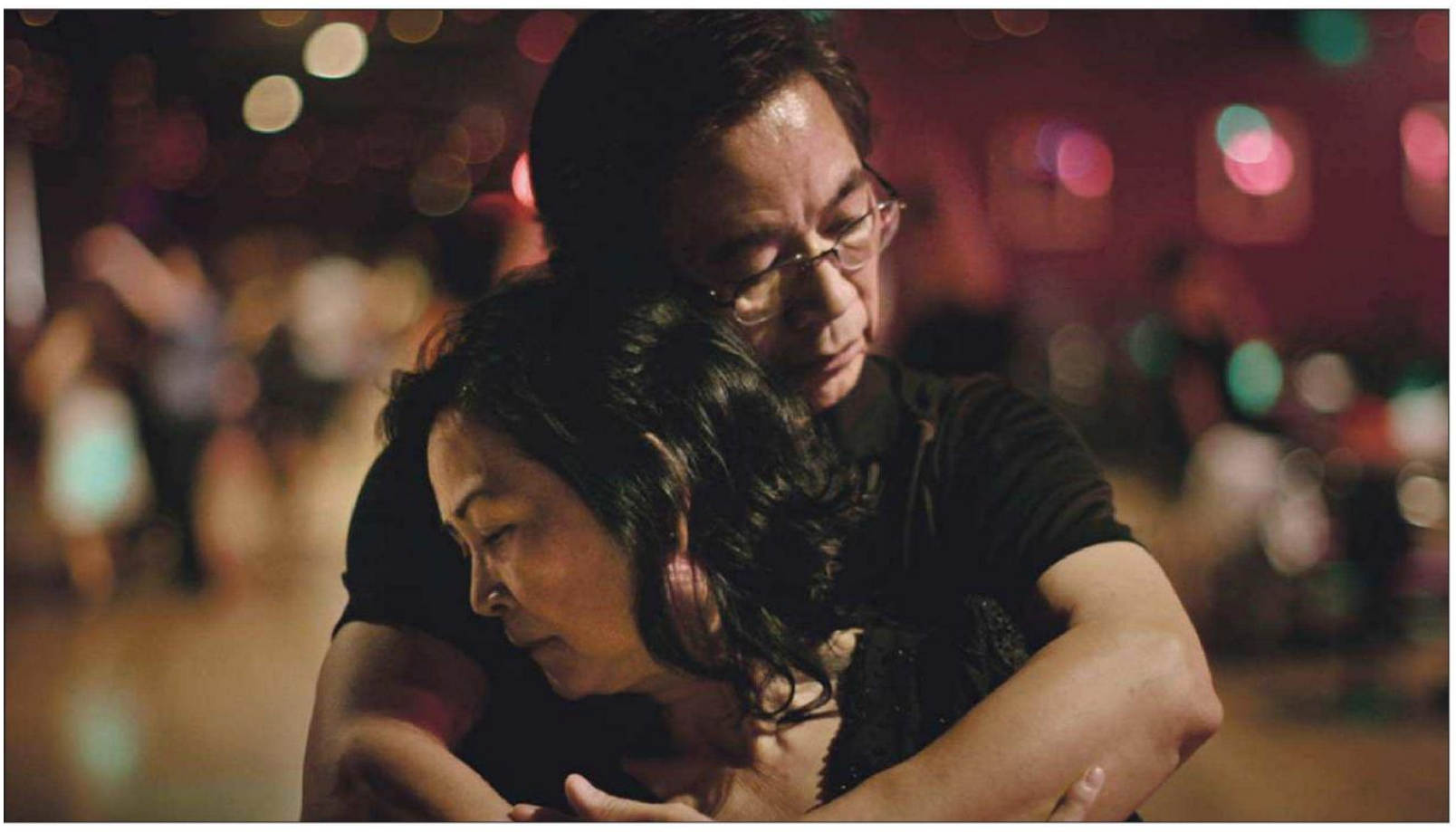
The system isn't learning from past oversights. Just look at the Oscar noms.

BY ROBERT DANIELS

As in the years of "Selma," "One Night in Miami" and "Mudbound" before it, Tuesday's Oscar nominations, an hour filled with elation for many, brought disappointment to Black women.

It's not the first time the Academy Awards have been scrutinized for their shortcomings on diversity: The organization supposedly went through a collective soul-searching after 2015, when April Reign made #OscarsSoWhite a cultural touchstone. The resulting

[See **Commentary,** E3]



Viet Film Fest

"WALK RUN Cha-Cha," a 2019 Oscar-nominated short, documented Vietnamese refugees Chipaul and Millie Cao's ballroom dancing.

Ballroom was a safe haven for community

[**Ballroom,** from E1]
60s or 70s. Yutian Wong, a professor at San Francisco State University's School of Theatre & Dance who specializes in Asian American dance studies, said her father, a 70-something Malaysian immigrant, probably would have been at the ballroom when the shooting happened Saturday night, if he hadn't been dropping off a relative somewhere else.

"It's pretty horrible. That's the thing. You just imagine these places that are thought of as safe community spaces, where one isn't going to be harassed," said Wong. "I know a lot of people think, 'Ballroom dancing, it's so odd, why do Asian people like it?' But it's been a big, thriving community for a long time."

The once strictly European practice of ballroom dancing has long since internationalized and taken on a life of its own, with dancers of all ages and nationalities finding joy, community and a healthy workout in swaying through the waltz, the fox trot, swing and rumba. "Dancing With the Stars" was a staple of ABC's programming for 30 seasons before recently moving to Disney+. California ballroom competitions can draw hundreds of competitors of every ethnicity.

But ballroom dancing has especially been a draw for older immigrants in Southern California, not only as an art form popular in their countries of origin but also one that's embraced, recognized and accessible in the U.S.

"Lots of immigrant communities — Chinese, Vietnamese, Filipino — have ballroom dance studios," said Carolina San Juan, director of graduate mentoring for the Academic Advancement Program at UCLA, who did her master's thesis on Filipino American ballroom dancers. "It's ours, ballroom dancing belongs to us, and when I say us, I mean all immigrants. Lots of immigrant communities, not just Asians."

A 2007 scholarly article from the Journal of Asian American Studies noted that although dance studios are "ubiquitous" across Southern California, only a few existed expressly for international-style ballroom dancing, with the largest located in Asian American enclaves such as Monterey Park — a city several miles east of downtown Los Angeles.

"Interestingly, none of these studios exist in Los Angeles' fashionable Westside or in the Santa Monica or Malibu areas," wrote the article's author, George Uba. "Nor do any exist in the demographically white areas of Ventura County or in upscale Santa Barbara. One triangular sector of the Asian-populated San Gabriel Valley has more of these large international dance studios than does all of Orange County."

In an email to The Times, Uba, a professor emeritus and former department head of English at Cal State Northridge, said older Asian immigrants go ballroom dancing primarily for the exercise, to socialize and for "the aesthetic properties of the dance."

"Dance studios like Star and Lai Lai with their afternoon tea dances and evening dance 'parties' are not only filled with AAPI dancers but are primarily devoted to the social dancers, not the competition-level international-style dancers," Uba said.

Ballroom dancing experienced a surge in popularity with middle-aged professionals in both Asia and the U.S. at the end of the 20th century, helped along by televised ballroom competitions and popular films.

> 'Dancing is an escape, and I hope we don't run away from studios too. We have to keep this community alive.'
>
> — Marisa Hamamoto, professional ballroom dancer

The middling 2004 American ballroom dancing movie "Shall We Dance?" starring Richard Gere, Jennifer Lopez and Susan Sarandon was actually a remake of a more well-received 1996 Japanese film of the same name, starring Koji Yakusho as an adrift office worker who decides to take up ballroom dancing.

The original "Shall We Dance?" swept top film awards in Japan, where some ballroom dancing competitions at the time could draw as many as 20,000 spectators. It also struck a social chord, arriving at a time of loosening social mores in Japan.

Ballroom dance had also grown popular in other Asian nations, such as the Philippines, as well as with immigrant diasporas.

"It was so popular at the time, the early 2000s, that there would be Filipino Americans who would pool their money together to get a visa from dance instructors from Manila to come to the U.S. to teach them the latest dancing moves from Manila," said San Juan.

In 2019, "Walk Run Cha-Cha," a 20-minute documentary directed by Laura Nix, told the story of two older Vietnamese refugees, Chipaul and Millie Cao, who had thrown themselves into ballroom dancing at Lai Lai Ballroom & Studio in Alhambra — where bystanders disarmed the Star Ballroom shooter before he could potentially carry out a second massacre.

"I work as an engineer. We work full time. We can afford to retire. Our daughter has her own life right now," Chipaul Cao narrates in the documentary, which was Oscar-nominated for documentary short. "So we go to the club at least four nights per week, taking group lesson, private lesson, and dance on the floor three hours in the evening. Why am I spending so much time dancing? Am I crazy?"

Cao adds, "We know we don't have a lot of time left. We're making up for the lost time."

Minn Vo, 46, who runs a jazz dance ensemble called Hollywood Hotshots, knew the slain owner of the Star Ballroom, Ming Wei Ma, 72, and paid tribute to the welcoming space that Ma had fostered at the Star Ballroom for all sorts of dancers.

"He was really passionate and generous," Vo said. The club "brought the community together. Rich, poor, there was no class there. It was Asian-owned but really diverse. This is so really devastating. All my memories from there now are gone."

Hamamoto, the professional dancer, urged dancers to keep dancing.

"We go through the toughest parts of life by moving our bodies," she said. "Dancing is an escape, and I hope we don't run away from studios too. We have to keep this community alive."

Sure bet of a show

[**'Poker Face,'** from E1]
lar shape, an order of business. Streaming made serials de rigueur; here you're drawn back not by a cliffhanger but for a variation on the very thing you liked last week. There are still plenty of these shows on network television, generally sitcoms and procedurals, where a problem is created and solved between the opening and closing credits, but it's rare to find them on a streaming platform.

(Amateur) detection suits Lyonne. "Russian Doll," the series that, after "Orange Is the New Black," cemented her return to the spotlight — she got famous young, but there were later years in the personal and professional wilderness — was a mystery story as well: a mystical detective show in which her Nadia needed to discover why she kept dying in the first season and traveling through time in the second. "Poker Face," for all its cleverness and modern attitudes, is as straightforward as can be, made simply, and expertly, to be enjoyed — comfort food, not "elevated," but delicious.

As Charlie, Lyonne is the series' only regular character, though Benjamin Bratt recurs as her pursuer, a security chief employed by the casino where we meet her working as a cocktail waitress. The pilot sets up the terms of her flight, which are too much of a spoiler to spell out, but there's a murder, and in solving it Charlie incurs the wrath of a powerful person (with the voice of Ron Perlman). It's a star turn, which is to say the actress herself is inextricable from the fun, the case with most every successful detective series. Her vibe runs from Brooklyn to the Borscht Belt — like "Columbo's" Peter Falk, she's New York Jewish — and she comes across onscreen as colorful, friendly, eccentric, determined, existentially rumpled and, if we may detour for a word into Yiddish, heimish, even when her character is vexing or problematic. She's like an uncle — aunt doesn't really capture it — who tells jokes you can't always follow and every so often leans in to pull a nickel out of your ear.

Peacock

NATASHA LYONNE, left, plays a casino worker on the run from these guys (Benjamin Bratt, Adrien Brody).

Like Nadia, Charlie is special. She has a nonsupernatural superpower: the ability to tell when a person is lying. We learn that before she was serving drinks at the Frost casino and living in a trailer in the desert, she used this ability to make a lot of money playing poker; but that part of her life has been forced to a conclusion, which she doesn't mind at all.

Still, as the series opens, the casino is being managed by the owner's son, played by Adrien Brody, who has learned her secret and has a proposition that will make her rich.

"I been rich," says Charlie.

"How was it?"

"Easier than being broke. Harder than doing just fine."

Once we see the murder — its setup, its execution — we hop back a little in time to find that Charlie has already entered the scene. She might be working a low-profile job — a waitress at a dinner theater, a cook at an open-air barbecue joint, an attendant in a retirement home, selling merch on a sad little rock tour — or stuck in town overnight while her Plymouth Barracuda is being repaired. But she's been around long enough to establish a connection. Charlie's a talkative, amiable, social creature, which, mixed with her innate sense of right and wrong, makes her helpless to keep from helping where help is needed. (She will even take charge of a stray dog that seems to hate her.) "I think in another life you were, like, a knight," a friend tells her. "Lady Galahad."

With her built-in bull detector, Charlie is also unable to rest when something seems off, and so she'll stick with a problem — getting to the bottom of what looks like an accident, death by natural causes, suicide or murder at the hands of someone already in custody — until she works it out. She does have an unfortunate habit of explaining to the killer or killers just how they did it, without a policeman's power to then hang the cuffs on them, and so regularly puts herself in danger.

Nevertheless, she manages to deliver some form of justice each episode before moving on to the next setting, where, again, someone will be murdered. The absurd frequency with which this happens might, one would think, be a cause for comment — she's a compulsive commenter and a born ironist — but such is the lot of the incidental detective, from Miss Marple to Father Brown to Jessica Fletcher.

The changing milieus and a delightful guest cast — including John Ratzenberger, Lil Rel Howery, Tim Meadows, Ellen Barkin, S. Epatha Merkerson, Judith Light, John Hodgman, Chloë Sevigny, Simon Helberg, Hong Chau and K Callan (the old lady in Johnson's "Knives Out") — keep "Poker Face" colorful and fresh. Leaving aside the essentially magical talent that will help Charlie crack a case, not everything is completely plausible, and the mechanics of the murders, which reach into the Big Book of Establishing an Alibi, can feel a little familiar. But with 136 years of mystery stories since Sherlock Holmes opened shop, how could it be otherwise? And familiarity — which breeds contentment as easily as contempt — is in part the point. Although it will be mentioned more than once to Charlie that she isn't in a television show, of course she is. That's why we're here, and sticking around.

'Poker Face'

Where: Peacock
When: Anytime
Rating: TV-MA (may be unsuitable for children under the age of 17)

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ROYAL 11523 Santa Monica Blvd. West L.A.
THE SON PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
LIVING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:30
NO BEARS 1:30 4:30 7:20

MONICA 1332 Second Street Santa Monica
CHESS STORY 1:10 PM
SAINT OMER PG-13 4:00 PM
BROKER R 1:00 PM
CORSAGE 4:20 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:10 6:50
EO 4:30 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 6:50 PM
TÁR R 1:00 3:50 6:45
FLYING BOAT 1:00 3:05 5:10 7:30
IMMACULATE 1:20 4:10 7:10
THE QUIET EPIDEMIC 7:15 PM

TOWN CENTER 17200 Ventura Blvd. Encino
THE SON PG-13 1:10 4:10 7:20
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
BROKER R 4:00 PM
LIVING PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
NO BEARS 1:20 4:20 7:10
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 7:00

NEWHALL 22500 Lyons Ave. Santa Clarita
MISSING PG-13 1:10 4:20 7:20
THE SON PG-13 4:20 PM
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:00 7:00
PLANE R 1:20 4:10 7:20
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:30 4:30 7:10
AVATAR: THE WAY OF WATER PG-13 1:20 6:30
THE WHALE R 7:10 PM
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 PM

GLENDALE 207 N. Maryland Ave Glendale
NEW GODS: YANG JIAN SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 1:20 4:15 7:15
THE SON PG-13 1:10 4:10
BEAUTIFUL BEINGS SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 1:00 PM
SKINAMARINK 7:10 PM
BROKER R SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 4:00 PM
CORSAGE 4:20 PM
LIVING PG-13 1:30 7:20
ALL THE BEAUTY AND THE BLOODSHED 1:00 PM
EO SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 7:30 PM
DECISION TO LEAVE SUBTITLED IN ENGLISH; 6:55 PM
TRIANGLE OF SADNESS R 3:40 PM

NoHo 7 5240 Lankershim Blvd. No. Hollywood
IN FROM THE SIDE 12:55 7:00
THE SON PG-13 1:00 4:15
WOMEN TALKING PG-13 1:20 4:20 7:20
PLANE R 1:20 4:10 7:15
SAINT OMER PG-13 4:00 PM
SKINAMARINK 7:30 PM
M3GAN PG-13 1:30 4:30 7:30
THE WHALE R 1:10 4:10 7:10
THE FABELMANS PG-13 1:00 4:00 6:55

CLAREMONT 450 W. 2nd Street Claremont
THE SON PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
A MAN CALLED OTTO PG-13 1:00 4:10 7:10
SAINT OMER PG-13 4:00 PM
BROKER R 4:00 PM
NO BEARS 1:15 7:30
PUSS IN BOOTS: THE LAST WISH PG 1:30 4:30 7:20
THE WHALE R 1:10 7:00

BARGAIN IN ( ) CC CLOSED CAPTION NSP NON-STANDARD PRICING FOR 1/26/2023 ONLY

AN APPRECIATION

An inspiring L.A. poet and 'lupus warrior'

Tonya Ingram was fighting for artistry, better healthcare and a kidney transplant.

By Jireh Deng

Jireh Deng

TONYA INGRAM began her writing in New York and co-founded NYU's SLAM!

Tonya Ingram, a beloved poet, mental health advocate, mainstay of Los Angeles' close-knit performance poetry scene and self-described "lupus warrior," who spoke candidly about her illness to thousands of online followers, died late last month at 31.

Her close friends and neighbors, Matthew "Cuban" Hernandez and Alyesha Wise, told The Times they had found Ingram unresponsive during a wellness check at her apartment around noon on Dec. 30 after not hearing from her for a few days. The poets announced her death in an Instagram post on New Year's Day. "There aren't many humans like Tonya, with a heart and energy like hers. And we'll love our little sister forever," read Hernandez's post.

Ingram published three books of poetry, including "Growl and Snare" (2013), "Another Black Girl Miracle" (2017) and "How to Survive Today" (2019). Much of her writing, published in outlets ranging from Vice to BuzzFeed to the New York Times, circled themes of chronic illness, Black girlhood, love and mental health awareness. Since her death, close friends and supporters have flocked to Instagram, sharing posts about the impact of her friendship and her poetry on their lives. With more than 20,000 followers, Ingram had shared her journey through illness alongside her poetry.

Born in Cincinnati and raised in the Bronx, Ingram had her start as a youth poet in New York City, where she was also a founding member of SLAM! at New York University alongside poet and classmate Safia Elhillo. She traveled and performed widely during her 20s, competing as a spoken word artist in college slams; several of her recorded performances reached hundreds of thousands of viewers.

But it was in L.A. that Ingram found her tribe, after moving west to earn a master of fine arts at Otis College of Art and Design. She became a regular attendee at Da Poetry Lounge in West Hollywood, where Wise and Hernandez help co-host one of the nation's largest weekly open mics. She toured with DPL's national slam team (fellow alums include Yesika Salgado) and quickly established herself as a leading voice in L.A.'s performance community.

Up until her death, she was still organizing and planning public events, including the "Poetry in Color" series in collaboration with the Los Angeles County Museum of Art. Launched in 2020, "Poetry in Color" featured poets who wrote pieces inspired by public art at LACMA. Ingram's goal was to make both poetry and art accessible to wider audiences.

Her death also shook a following that had gathered around her disability and mental health advocacy. She didn't shy away from voicing her opinions on the flaws of an American medical system that left her and thousands of other transplant hopefuls waiting for organ donors. In 2020, Ingram went live on Zoom with Rep. Katie Porter (D-Irvine) to discuss flaws and mismanagement among organizations charged with procuring donated organs.

Ingram was on the kidney donor wait list for three years. In an interview, Hernandez said he believed her death was preventable. Ingram's last Instagram post shared with her followers that she had been having trouble breathing. In the months leading up to her death, her hospital visits had become more frequent and urgent. Hernandez and Wise said that at times she was sent home before she was fully recovered.

Hernandez said the medical industry had been "nothing short of derelict of duty" even as Ingram's complications mounted. "She was tired."

Ingram had been prioritizing rest and quiet in recent years, according to Wise. "We both were always on the train, hustling and bustling and constantly moving [in our youth], so our snail life was well deserved," Wise said in an interview. "We talked about [how], as Black women in this world in this time, we deserve to have that."

For a self-described introvert with a debilitating illness, Ingram was a persistent and vibrant presence across the city. She had a dinosaur costume to match her nickname, "Tonyasaurus Rex," and some of her social media posts featured her dancing in it around the living room. In recent years she was learning to surf, and she was an active participant in outdoor collectives for people of color, such as Color the Water and AdventureCrew, bringing visibility to Black and brown people enjoying nature and wildlife, including in an ad campaign for Nike. Among the accolades listed in her bio, Ingram noted that she was a winner on "The Price Is Right."

Hernandez and Wise, who are married, had Ingram as a roommate for three years and an across-the-street neighbor afterward. On their frequent walks in North Hollywood, Ingram spoke often to Wise about wanting to fall in love deeply, grow a family. Dream projects included a movement to bring poetry and art to very ill hospital patients and other, even loftier aspirations.

"She wanted to get abducted by aliens," Wise remembered. "She also said as soon as she gets her kidney, she wanted to leave the country. She wanted to go to Europe."

Hernandez and Wise are handling funeral arrangements for Ingram, who had shared with them her wish to have a green burial underneath a tree. Family and friends are raising funds to have her buried on the grounds of Hollywood Forever Cemetery under a California oak. With those funds, Hernandez and Wise plan to fly out Ingram's family from Cincinnati and Brooklyn, N.Y., for the ceremony scheduled for Jan. 27.

So far the pair have raised around $30,000, which covers the costs associated with her burial. They're still taking donations, hoping to build a trust to send Ingram's 15-year-old younger sister to college, maintain her published and unpublished work and advocate for improvements to organ donor programs.

In a recent episode of the podcast "So Life Wants You Dead," recorded in July 2022, Ingram spoke candidly with host Nora Logan about the medical discrimination she faced as a dark-skinned Black woman — and also about learning to accept the possibility of her own death.

"I do not invite death, but I am not afraid of it. Meaning when it is time, I am at peace with it," Tonya said. "I don't fear it ... I just have such a deep peace knowing that this body will rest."

Deng is a queer Angeleno and multimedia journalist.

Another Oscar omission

[**Commentary,** from E1]

multiyear effort to diversify the academy's voting body has produced seismic wins such as "Moonlight" and "Parasite" taking the prize for best picture. For Black women, little has changed. In the history of the Oscars, the only Black woman to win lead actress is *still* Halle Berry. *Still* no Black woman has received a directing nomination. (Six Black men have been nominated; *still* none has won). And *still* only one film directed by a Black woman — Ava DuVernay's "Selma" — has been bestowed with a best picture nomination.

This year, that bleak track became more glaring: Alice Diop's critical darling "Saint Omer," France's submission for international film, didn't make it over the finish line. Gina Prince-Bythewood's "The Woman King" didn't appear in any categories, not even the technical areas where many pundits expected the historical epic to perform well. Both Viola Davis ("The Woman King") and Danielle Deadwyler ("Till") were shut out of lead actress after months at the front of the race. (Angela Bassett did score a supporting actress nomination for "Black Panther: Wakanda Forever.")

Meanwhile, Andrea Riseborough, spurred by a last-second, grass-roots campaign, which witnessed celebrities publicly supporting her case, received a surprise lead actress nod for the little-seen indie "To Leslie."

Although it's easy to point a finger at Riseborough for taking a slot from Black women, broken systems persist when we focus our ire on individuals. Rather than interrogating Riseborough's specific campaign — for a harrowing performance, I might add — one should ask a different question: What does it say that the Black women who did everything the institution asks of them — luxury dinners, private academy screenings, meet-and-greets, splashy television spots and magazine profiles — are ignored when someone who did everything outside of the system is rewarded?

Before #OscarsSoWhite, the (flawed) prevailing logic held that there simply weren't enough Black women making movies. In the director field, the rise of DuVernay, Regina King, Dee Rees, Nia DaCosta, Chinonye Chukwu, Janicza Bravo, Mati Diop and many more has obliterated that canard. In addition to Davis and Deadwyler, Keke Palmer, Zendaya, Dominique Fishback, Taylor Russell and more have contributed to an explosion of Black women actresses in contemporary cinema. Black women have always created. But their heightened prominence in today's Hollywood means the excuses for not highlighting them ring especially false.

Why does the inequality persist? Maybe voters aren't making these films a priority on their dense screener pile. Or maybe they're not understanding the cultural specificity of the work. Even with the changes, the academy is still a majority white organization, after all.

Neon

"SAINT OMER," from France, didn't end up an international nominee.

Then there are the all-important precursors before the Oscars. The Directors Guild of America, for instance, has never nominated a Black woman director in its main feature category, and a miss in the primary feature category is a near-death blow to any director's chances with the academy. Mati Diop, Alice Diop, Melina Matsoukas, Radha Blank and Regina King did receive nods for first-time feature, but in the entire history of the award, instituted in 2015, Jordan Peele is the only nominee for that prize to be nominated for a directing Oscar.

While Black actresses have fared better at finding nods in precursors like the Golden Globes, Screen Actors Guild and BAFTAs, wins have proved harder to come by. In the last 20 years only one Black woman took home lead actress at the Globes (Andra Day), only one for SAG (Viola Davis, twice) and none at the BAFTAs.

Even major critics organizations struggle with Black women: The National Society of Film Critics and the New York and Los Angeles film critics associations have never awarded a Black woman as director. The last time the National Society of Film Critics bestowed lead actress to a Black woman occurred in 1972 (Cicely Tyson in "Sounder"). It's happened twice with NYFCC (Regina Hall for "Support the Girls" and Lupita Nyong'o in "Us"). It's never happened for LAFCA.

So the problem isn't solely the academy's. Nor does it trace back to one white actress' awards campaign. No, such prejudice has deeper roots, reaching into fields outside of film: Black women are often stereotyped as aggressive, loud and unprofessional. They're critiqued for their hair, nails and fashion. They're hypersexualized. They're less likely to be hired, and even less likely to be promoted.

If a director like Prince-Bythewood, a creative with decades of critically lauded films, can't break through with a studio-backed crowd-pleaser like "The Woman King" — the kind of film the academy has awarded in the past, like "Gladiator" and "Braveheart" — then what hope does that leave for others? If Davis, a performer who might be the Meryl Streep of her generation, can be honored with an Oscar only by running supporting rather than lead, as she did with "Fences," then who will break through? Why is the work of Black women continually seen as lesser?

As a critic, I find that many well-meaning white folks assume the problem continues because of racists. But if the issues are systemic, then surely those who think of themselves as on the "right" side are not as well-meaning as they believe. During the summer of 2020, many white people in the entertainment industry pledged — as with #OscarsSoWhite — to be better. As normalcy returned those promises faded, and fast.

Hollywood continues to opt for the bare minimum when it comes diversity: window dressing on its blind spots, as it were. And unsurprisingly, these efforts have mostly fallen short of sustainable change. Few have a vested interest in remaking the system they call home, the one that affords them advantages, the one they came up in themselves.

"For how does one overthrow, change or even challenge a system," asks bell hooks, "that you have been taught to admire, to love, to believe in?"

After Black women lost on Oscar nominations morning, the awards apparatus deserves a prize of its own: least likely to learn from its mistakes.

MOVIE REVIEW

Out-of-body experience

In the horror 'Infinity Pool,' rich criminals can buy their way out of trouble with clones.

By Katie Walsh

Neon

"INFINITY POOL" blends identity crises and body horror, set against the backdrop of a ritzy resort.

Infinity pools are built as optical illusions where water seemingly has no boundary, slipping into nothingness, bleeding into the horizon. There could be no better title for Brandon Cronenberg's latest identity crisis-as-body horror film, "Infinity Pool," which arrives on the heels of 2020's "Possessor." Set at a high-end all-inclusive resort in the fictional country of Li Tolqa (it was shot on location in Croatia and Hungary), "Infinity Pool" is larger in scope than its predecessor, the narrative grander, sharper, funnier and more wickedly perverse.

This is Cronenberg's "Eyes Wide Shut" by way of "The White Lotus"; it is in conversation with "Triangle of Sadness," but it also seems to be a deeply personal film about an artist confronting his insecurities and finding a transformation, of sorts, in pure abandon and submission. It's a biting satire of wealth, an inspection of the power dynamics inherent in colonial tourism, and an indictment of the bad behavior that money not only enables, but engenders. But most of all, it cements Cronenberg as one of our greatest cinematic freaks, much like his father, the great David Cronenberg. With regard to that relationship, "Infinity Pool" is also rife with anxieties about being an artist with familial connections to industry.

The propulsive narrative and queasy, off-kilter camerawork by cinematographer Karim Hussain combine to create the sensation of being sucked down into a surreal whirlpool, entering a world that's off-balance, almost tilted, as if we're on a ship. The cool color palette denies the beauty of the location, and all the compositions list to the left. The close-ups are extreme, and the shallow depth of field has Hussain racking focus between the characters constantly, underlining the dissonance between our protagonist and his wife.

Alexander Skarsgård plays James Foster, a writer with an inferiority complex. Having published one novel, he's on vacation with his wife Em (Cleopatra Coleman), the publisher's daughter, looking for something to combat his writer's block. Inspiration, or something like that, walks into his life in the form of Gabi (Mia Goth), a fan of his book, she claims, and soon James and Em are dining, dancing and escaping the heavily fortified resort compound for a beach picnic with Gabi and her husband Alban (Jalil Lespert).

While James is tipsily navigating their illegally rented convertible back to the resort, the headlights malfunction, and he hits and kills a local farmer, triggering his descent into the unique and dystopian legal process of the impoverished, religious and conservative Li Tolqa. He's sentenced to die for his hit-and-run, ordered to be executed by the man's young son. But for a hefty fee, the police can create his "double" or a clone, to be killed instead. The only catch? He has to watch.

Choosing the double seems the only choice, but it's the one that sends James spiraling down a rabbit hole, falling in with Gabi and Alban's crowd, all of whom have been doubled before, escaping accountability and consequences with their money. The new lease on life emboldens them to act out, deriving as much hedonistic pleasure from a home invasion as they do a drug-fueled orgy.

At the center of this kaleidoscopic wormhole of dangerously dark delight is Gabi, played by reigning scream queen Mia Goth ("X," "Pearl"), who is as ferocious and fearless as she is funny. Gabi morphs from fawning fangirl to seductive sexpot to sadistic prankster and bully, dominating and humiliating the hapless himbo James with relish and her signature siren screech. It's the kind of performance only Goth could pull off, intentionally campy but so fully committed that it tips over the edge into terrifying.

This feels like a quintessential follow-up to a breakthrough film — a project about writer's block, horrible rich people and losing one's identity over and over again, only finding peace in submitting to powerful forces beyond one's control. Whether James is a good writer doesn't seem to matter, and if he finds himself again is unclear, but Cronenberg sure has fun pouring blood and bodily fluids on the problem and seeing how far he can push boundaries. If you're willing to surf on the wonderfully weird and wild wavelength of "Infinity Pool," it is indeed a singular, and unforgettable, ride.

Katie Walsh is a Tribune News Service film critic.

'Infinity Pool'

Rated: R, for graphic violence, disturbing material, strong sexual content, graphic nudity, drug use and some language

Running time: 1 hour, 57 minutes

Playing: Starts Friday in general release

For your safety

The Times is committed to covering indoor arts and entertainment events during the COVID-19 pandemic. Because attending carries risks during this time, we remind readers to follow health and safety guidelines as outlined by the CDC and local health officials.

COMICS

SUDOKU

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Level: Moderate

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2	6	4	3	5	1
5	1	3	4	2	6

1/26/23

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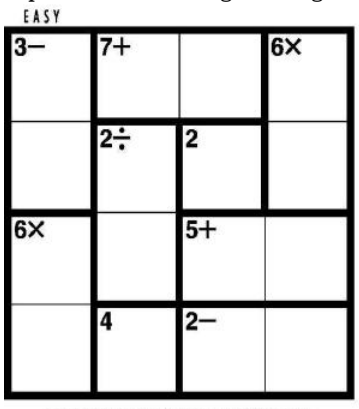
Solutions to Wednesday's puzzles

Complete the grid so each row, column and 3-by-3 or 2-by-3 box contains every digit from 1 to 9 (or 1 to 6 for the smaller grid). For strategies on how to solve Sudoku, visit *www.sudoku.org.uk*.

KENKEN

Every box will contain a number; numbers depend on the size of the grid. For a 6x6 puzzle, use Nos. 1-6. Do not repeat a number in any row or column. The numbers in each heavily outlined set of squares must combine to produce the target number found in the top left corner of the cage using the mathematical operation indicated. A number can be repeated within a cage as long as it is not in the same row or column.

EASY



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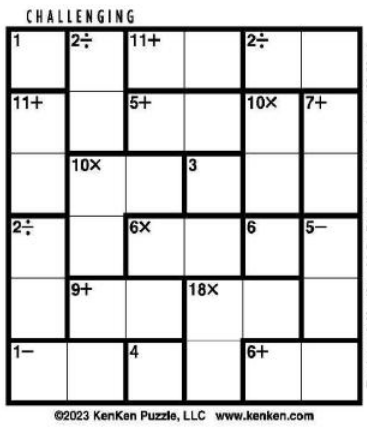
CHALLENGING



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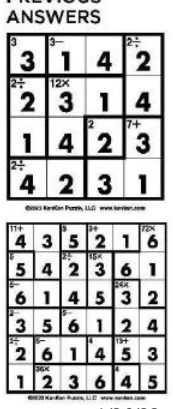
PREVIOUS ANSWERS



1/26/23

HOROSCOPE

By Holiday Mathis

Aries (March 21-April 19): Charging heedlessly ahead will cause unpredictable effects. The fates will favor those who hang back.

Taurus (April 20-May 20): People will interact like life forms in a forest, creating unique ecosystems.

Gemini (May 21-June 21): Deeply rooted attitudes can be passed down on hidden, unconscious levels. We may be unaware of how a myth affects us, but once the script is illuminated, attitudes can easily shift.

Cancer (June 22-July 22): Good relationships are made possible by people showing up for one another. You'll model it, attract it and accept it when it comes.

Leo (July 23-Aug. 22): Models of self-reliance, discipline and responsibility are around, though you're still the one most able to provide these qualities.

Virgo (Aug. 23-Sept. 22): It can be frustrating to be overtaken by people of equal or lower ability than you, but don't get too discouraged. Soon things will fall into place.

Libra (Sept. 23-Oct. 23): You've been granted extra wisdom to nurture and care for yourself and others and to know instinctively when to push ahead.

Scorpio (Oct. 24-Nov. 21): It doesn't always work out, but you'd still rather believe that relationships can be magical than err on the side of practicality.

Sagittarius (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): You're becoming aware of how much someone means to you. You're also getting a sense of their inner, unexpressed life.

Capricorn (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Though you may stand for various ideals, your true allegiance is to a transcendent vision of what could be.

Aquarius (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You read the tiny, unconscious signals others give about what they are feeling, and this helps you accurately predict their next move.

Pisces (Feb. 19-March 20): You keep working to give yourself the rudder, sails and oars you need to work with whatever weather may come.

Today's birthday (Jan. 26): You'll explore your history and reframe the past to empower yourself toward a major accomplishment. Impactful experiences along the way give you the goods to be an excellent and well-respected teacher. More highlights: easy money well invested, a party to remember, and unique and unifying family gatherings. Aries and Cancer adore you. Your lucky numbers: 10, 6, 4, 38 and 21.

Mathis writes her column for Creators Syndicate Inc. The horoscope should be read for entertainment.

CROSSWORD

Edited By Patti Varol and Joyce Nichols Lewis

By Katherine Balcker & Ross Trudeau

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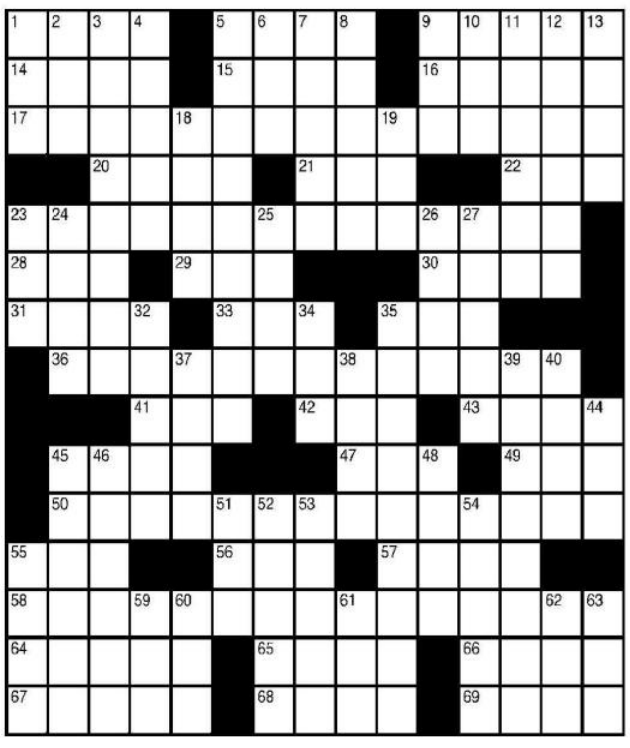

ACROSS

1 Intro courses?
5 Female turkeys
9 Features of some islands
14 Attract
15 Lotion ingredient
16 Sleeper's rumble
17 Mascot who pursued the Hamburglar
20 Dutch cheese
21 Right at sea?
22 So last year
23 Mascot with a goatee and a string tie
28 Flying fig.
29 Carve up a black diamond?
30 Currier and __
31 Entreaty
33 Shade tree
35 Service charge
36 Mascot "born in the Sea of Milk"
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42 English pronoun
43 Excursion
45 Océano contents
47 "Sorta"
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50 Mascot who says, "I want to eat your cereal!"
55 Samantha Bee's former network
56 Calgary summer hrs.
57 Left at sea?
58 Marketing strategies, and what the mascots in this puzzle have all been given?
64 With 40-Down, legal scholar played by Kerry Washington in HBO's "Confirmation"
65 Past regulation, briefly
66 Smooch in a lift
67 Cat collar dangler
68 Affixes a patch, say
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5 Ones who work with bowlers and boaters
6 Yalie
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9 Govt. stipend
10 Dutch banking giant with an orange lion logo
11 "I give!"
12 Alison in the Bluegrass Music Hall of Fame
13 Chip off the old flock?
18 Sonata and Cadenza
19 "__-Hur"
23 Missing segment
24 Spanish pronoun
25 Singer/activist Downs
26 French Lord
27 __ planner
32 Affaire de coeur
34 NYC FC's org.
35 Just-brewed carafes of coffee, e.g.
37 Kirkuk's country
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44 Storied cause of royal insomnia
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48 Nocturnal call
51 Strike caller
52 Elba of "The Suicide Squad"
53 Curling target
54 Brittle
55 Taiwan's first female president
59 "When do u get in?"
60 Old futon problem
61 Lower a pitch?
62 Figs.
63 "__ Pepper's Lonely Hearts Club Band"

ANSWER TO PREVIOUS PUZZLE

K	A	M	A		F	R	A	U	D	S		T	A	D
I	R	O	C		E	N	D	S	I	T		A	L	E
W	O	R	T	H	Y	C	A	U	S	E		B	A	N
I	N	P	U	T		M	A	T	A	D	O	R	S	
		H	A	M	M		S	L	I	D	H	O	M	E
S	K	I	L	L	E	T			L	I	A			
W	I	N			H	U	M	B	L	E	B	R	A	G
A	L	T	A	R		N	A	E		S	I	E	N	A
N	O	O	N	E	C	A	R	E	S			V	O	N
			A	H	A			S	A	S	S	I	N	G
I	N	V	I	E	R	N	O		T	I	E	S		
M	A	R	S	A	L	I	S			T	R	I	M	S
A	D	O		R	O	C	K	T	H	E	B	O	A	T
C	I	O		S	A	H	A	R	A		I	N	R	E
S	A	M		E	N	T	R	A	P		A	S	A	P

1/26/23

BRIDGE

By Frank Stewart

The fabulous Ducky van Tassel played at my club yesterday. Depending on the stock market, Ducky is either the third or fourth richest person in town. When told that Procter & Gamble had split, Ducky said that was a shame after they had been together for so long. She is no better at addressing bad splits as declarer.

When Ducky played at today's six hearts, she ruffed the second spade, cashed the ace of trumps and muttered something unladylike when West discarded. Ducky next took the A-K of diamonds and ruffed a diamond in dummy ... and East overruffed. Ducky had to lose another trick: down two.

After West shows out on the first trump, South can take the A-K of clubs, lead a diamond to dummy and continue with high clubs.

If East ruffs — discarding is no help — South overruffs and draws trumps. Dummy still has a trump, and South can ruff a diamond in dummy and finish the clubs to make the slam.

You hold: ♠ K 6 ♥ 8 7 5 3 ♦ A 5 ♣ Q J 7 6 3. Your partner opens one club. The next player doubles. What do you say?

Answer: To redouble, showing 10+ points, would be acceptable, but when the auction may be competitive, you may do well to give partner a description of your hand promptly. A gadget can help here: Bid 2NT, conventionally showing a limit raise of partner's suit. With a stronger hand, you would redouble. Avoid a bid of one heart.

South dealer
N-S vulnerable

NORTH
♠ K 6
♥ 8 7 5 3
♦ A 5
♣ Q J 7 6 3

WEST
♠ Q J 10 5 4
♥ None
♦ Q J 9 6
♣ 10 9 5 2

EAST
♠ A 9 8 7 2
♥ J 9 6 4
♦ 10 3
♣ 8 4

SOUTH
♠ 3
♥ A K Q 10 2
♦ K 8 7 4 2
♣ A K

SOUTH	WEST	NORTH	EAST
1 ♥	Pass	3 ♥	Pass
4 NT	Pass	5 ♦	Pass
6 ♥	All Pass		

Opening lead – ♠ Q

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ASK AMY

Fair share in mom's care

Dear Amy: I am the oldest of four siblings — 10 years older than my next sibling.

My wife and I are in our mid-70s. We are retired and live on Social Security, her modest teacher's pension and a six-figure nest egg.

Two of my siblings have large incomes and considerable real estate holdings. The other brother and his wife have professional jobs.

All the grandchildren in the family are now adults and on their own.

The controversy involves my 100-year-old mother, who lives in the East near my siblings in an expensive care facility. We live in another part of the country.

My siblings insist that we share the cost in equal measure. We have offered to care for my mother in our home at no cost to them, but they have rejected the offer.

I believe contributions should be based on individual circumstances and ability to pay. The disagreement has caused a rift among us. Is there a solution?

Stuck in Stalemate

Dear Stuck: Moving your 100-year-old mother to another part of the country does not seem like a viable option for anyone, especially her. If she is happy and doing well where she is, she should stay there.

I agree with you that siblings should contribute to an elder's care according to their circumstances and ability to pay. When your siblings chose to move your mother into this expensive home, you should've made it clear at the outset that this was unaffordable for you.

Given your older age and more modest assets, you need to be careful with your own spending. Your younger siblings may not quite grasp how for many people retirement brings on an extreme drop in income, along with possibly higher expenses.

This is a "you can't get blood from a stone" situation, but you should offer to be of service to your mother in order to share the burden with your siblings. You could offer to come to the area to be with her when your siblings need to be away.

Dear Amy: I've known "Stacy" for 10 years.

Not too long ago, Stacy had to move to another city because she was catfishing several people and it turned into a huge mess.

Recently she has been behaving in ways that are out of character.

Every time she and I go somewhere together, a guy who is NOT her husband always comes along.

We have identical cellphone covers on our phones, and recently when we were together, I accidentally picked up her phone and saw a very explicit message from this other guy. I put it down and walked away.

I think she is catfishing people again.

Should I say something to her, or keep this to myself?

Very Confused

Dear Very Confused: You say your friend is behaving in a way that is out of character, but your description of her current behavior actually seems to be consistent with her character.

"Catfishing" is the practice of pretending to be someone else online, in order to "fish for" — and catch — unsuspecting people who are most often looking for a romantic relationship.

The catfish victimizes people, sometimes scamming money from them, and almost always creating an entirely false romance with them. This is emotional as well as financial larceny.

Yes, you should ask her what she is up to. Prepare yourself for her answer.

Email questions to Amy Dickinson at *askamy@amydickinson.com*.

FAMILY CIRCUS By Bil Keane

"Can you help me lift this towel, Mommy? I couldn't find a washcloth."

DENNIS THE MENACE By Hank Ketcham

"I THINK IT'S KNOWN AS 'ERROR IN JUDGEMENT.'"

REPLY ALL LITE By Donna Lewis

I wouldn't say no to a classy certificate acknowledging my selfless contributions.
get a signed print: cartoons@replyallcomic.com
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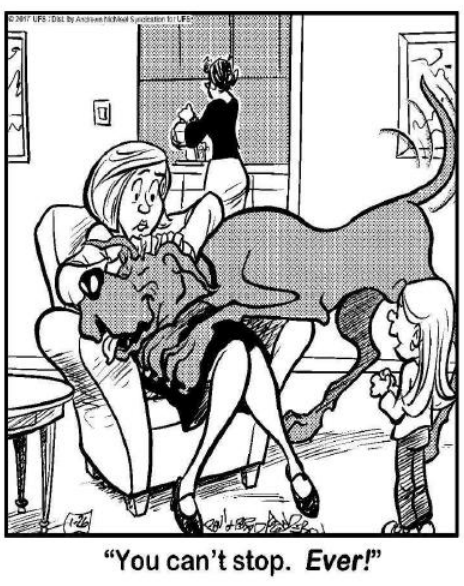
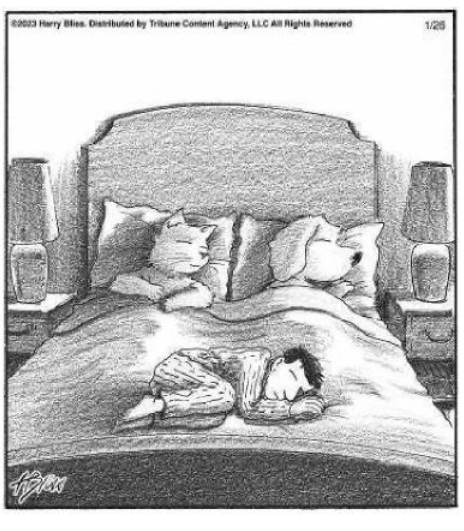
1-26

MARMADUKE By Brad & Paul Anderson



"You can't stop. *Ever!*"

BLISS By Harry Bliss



SPEED BUMP By Dave Coverly

COMICS

LA CUCARACHA By Lalo Alcaraz

ANCHOR OF "CBS EVENING NEWS," PILOT FOR PAN AM IN THE 1960s, 10-TIME OLYMPIC GOLD MEDAL-WINNER IN HORSEBACK GYMNASTICS, AQUATIC JAVELIN THROWING... YOUR RESUMÉ IS VERY IMPRESSIVE!
YOU'RE HIRED!
WHAT'S THE JOB?
WRITING MY BIOGRAPHY.
I GOT THIS.

DILBERT By Scott Adams

I'M CONCERNED THAT YOUR OBSESSION WITH POSTING VIDEOS ON INSTAGRAM WILL MAKE YOU MORE OF A NARCISSIST THAN YOU ALREADY ARE.
I'LL HAVE YOU KNOW THAT EVERYTHING GOOD ABOUT THIS WORLD WAS CREATED BY NARCISSISTS WHO WANTED ACCLAIM FOR DOING GOOD WORK.
ARE YOU DOING GOOD WORK?
NO, I'M PRESENTING MORE OF A CONCEPTUAL ARGUMENT HERE.

CRABGRASS By Tauhid Bondia

I DON'T KNOW ABOUT YOU GUYS, BUT I'M ALMOST POSITIVE I ACED THAT SCIENCE QUIZ!
COOL.
MAYBE YOU'LL TAKE THOSE GLASSES OFF NOW. SINCE THEY DON'T ACTUALLY MAKE YOU SMARTER.
YEAH, I COULD DO THAT.
OR I COULD KEEP THEM ON AWHILE.
SEE HOW THE OTHER HALF LIVES.
SO WHAT DO WE DO NOW? READ THE DICTIONARY FOR FUN?
WE'RE ON THE G'S, ACTUALLY!
CARLA. STOP.

BABY BLUES By Jerry Scott & Rick Kirkman

IT LOOKS PRETTY BAD OUT THERE.
A TOTAL BLIZZARD.
I BET IT'S A MILLION DEGREES BELOW ZERO.
TWO MILLION WITH THE WIND CHILL FACTOR!
THEY JUST CLOSED YOUR SCHOOL BECAUSE OF THE STORM.
LET'S GO OUTSIDE!

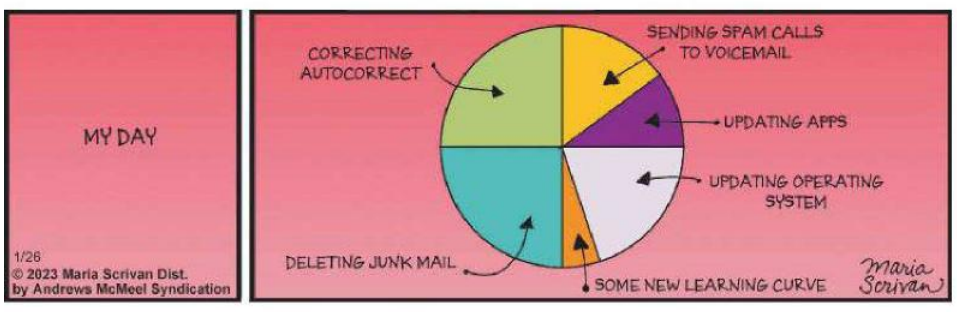
CANDORVILLE By Darrin Bell

SON, YOU HAVE SPANISH CLASS IN THE MORNING. YOU'VE GOT TO GO TO SLEEP.
THAT'S DUMB.
WHY DO YOU WANT ME TO LEARN SOMETHING THAT'S ALMOST LIKE SPAN?
WHAT THE... SON, IT'S "SPANISH," NOT "SPAN-ISH."
DADDY, MAKE UP YOUR MIND.
I'VE MADE UP MY MIND. I'M GOING TO SLEEP!

CRANKSHAFT By Tom Batiuk & Chuck Ayers

WHAT SORT OF EMERGENCY ARE YOU CALLING ABOUT?
I'M NOT SURE HOW TO DESCRIBE IT...
IS SOMEONE ENDANGERING HIMSELF OR OTHERS? IS IT A MEDICAL EMERGENCY? IS IT A FIRE?
I THINK YOU'VE CHECKED ALL OF THE BOXES!
BATIUK & DAVIS

HALF FULL By Maria Scrivan



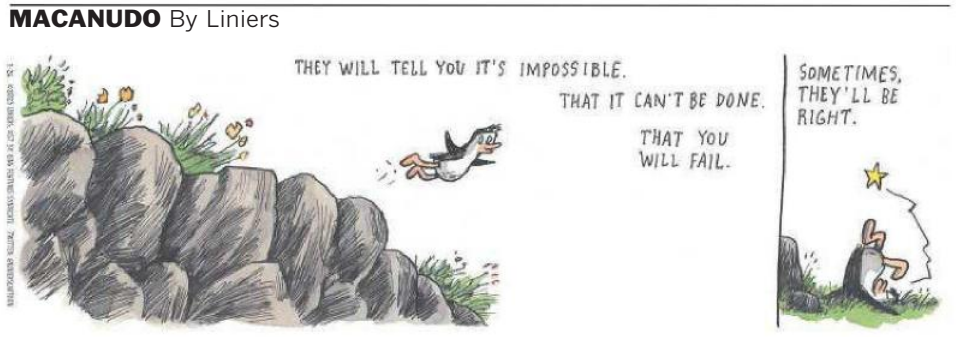
JUMP START By Robb Armstrong

SO...YOLANDA AND I DON'T HAVE TO DO ANYTHING RELATED TO YOUR WEDDING?
NOPE! MARCY IS MY MATRON OF HONOR!
THAT'S GREAT! FOR ONCE, SOMEONE ELSE IS THE BOSS. I LOVE IT!
YOUR ONLY JOB IS TO HAVE FUN!
"FUN: LIGHT-HEARTED PLEASURE AND MERRYMAKING."
I'LL GIVE IT A SHOT.

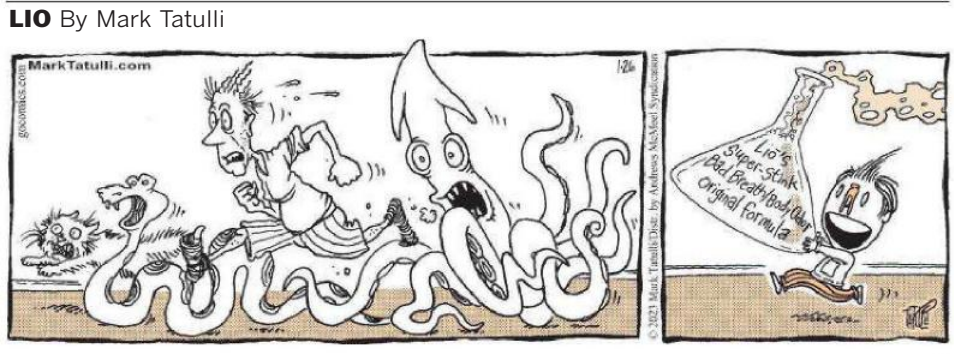
PEARLS BEFORE SWINE By Stephan Pastis

Places I will go before I die:
1)
2)
3)
THOSE ARE SUCH FUN LISTS TO WRITE. THEN YOU CAN CHECK OFF EACH PLACE AS YOU VISIT THEM.
1) Doctor's office
2) Hospital
3) Hospice care
YOU HAVE ODD REACTIONS TO THINGS.

MACANUDO By Liniers



LIO By Mark Tatulli



BLONDIE By Dean Young & John Marshall

I CAN'T SLEEP...IT'S AS IF I CAN'T TURN THE LIGHTS OFF IN MY HEAD!
IMAGINE YOU'RE LOCKED IN A DARK PIZZA PLACE WITH ALL THAT PIZZA
Z
WORKS EVERY TIME

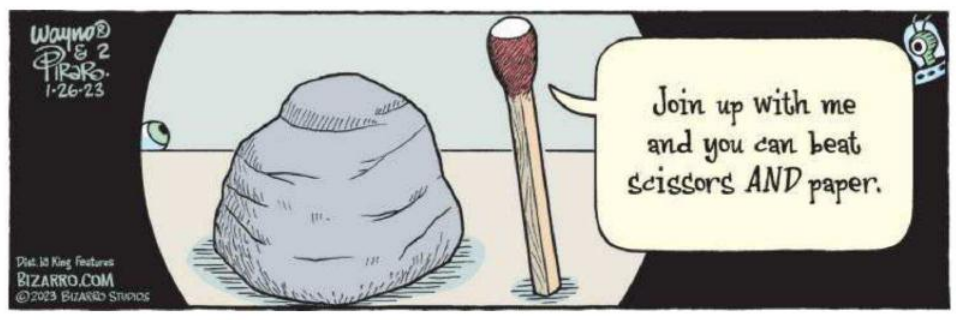
ZITS By Jerry Scott & Jim Borgman

BETWEEN FRIENDS By Sandra Bell-Lundy

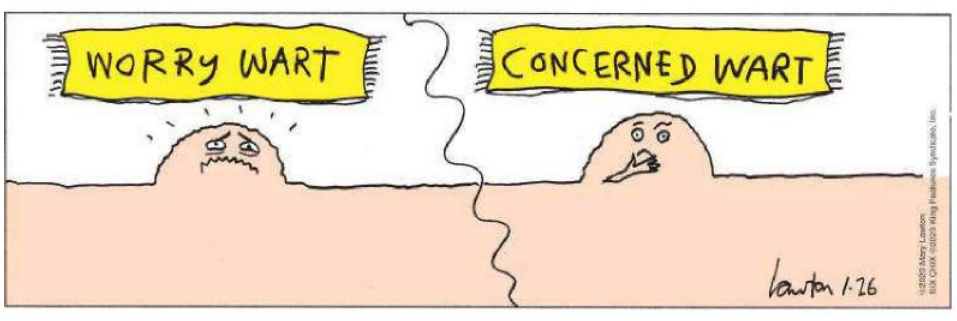
I NEVER REALIZED HOW MUCH I'VE IGNORED MY OWN SELF-CARE SINCE BECOMING A MOM
WELL, IT'S HIGH TIME I CHANGED THAT... AND I'M GOING TO START BY ORDERING A SUPERSIZED CHOCOLATE SUNDAE!
I DON'T THINK SELF-CARE MEANS INDULGING IN EXCESS CALORIES AND SUGAR
WHAT THE HECK'S THE POINT OF INDULGING IF IT'S NOT TO EXCESS?

TUNDRA By Chad Carpenter

BIZARRO By Wayno and Piraro



SIX CHIX By Mary Lawton



DRABBLE By Kevin Fagan

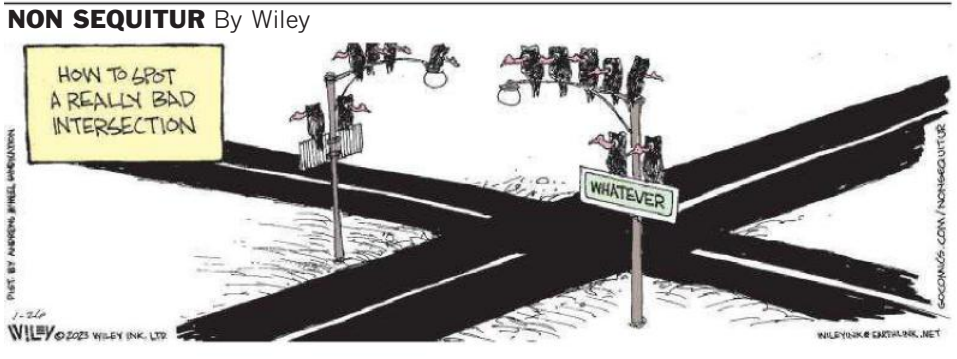
MR. STEINBAUER IS PRESIDENT OF THE H.O.A..! DUCKS CAN'T BE PETS IN OUR NEIGHBORHOOD!
NO DUCKS LIVE HERE
THAT'S WHY WE HAVE TO PRETEND BOB IS A PARROT!
IF HE KNEW BOB WAS A DUCK, HE'D MAKE US GET RID OF HIM!
HE WOULDN'T DARE!!
WOULD HE??
HE JUST FINED OUR NEIGHBORS BECAUSE THEIR SNOWMAN IS TOO TALL!

FRAZZ By Jef Mallett

JANUARY IS ALMOST OVER.
AND WITH IT, RESOLUTION SEASON. ONE-TIME GOALS MET OR FORGOTTEN,
SUSTAINED EFFORTS OR ATTEMPTS TO QUIT SOMETHING SIMPLY FORGOTTEN.
I THOUGHT YOU WERE TRYING TO BE A LITTLE LESS CYNICAL.
I WAS?

MUTTS By Patrick McDonnell

NON SEQUITUR By Wiley



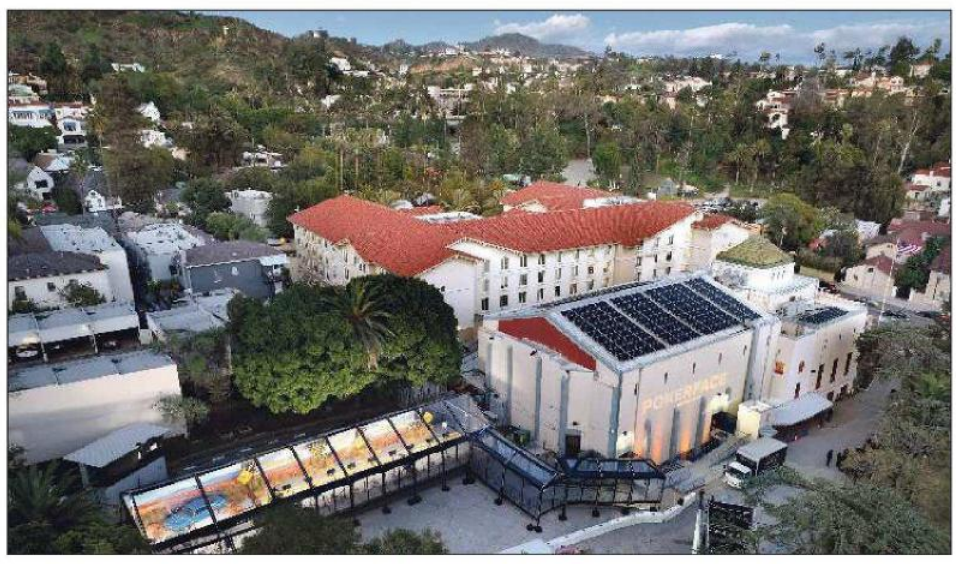
PEANUTS By Charles M. Schulz

Act 2 for old Post 43

Photographs by ALLEN J. SCHABEN Los Angeles Times

CREATIVE DIRECTOR Taylor Umphenour says, "People walk in expecting a pull-down screen and folding chairs. Then they see this."

THE BAR from "The Shining" in the basement of Post 43, which has hosted numerous location shoots.



POST 43 is all spiffed up for the premiere of Rian Johnson's "Poker Face."

[**Legion,** from E1]
many posts throughout the country was to put on a show.

Or at least create a world-class theater in which stars would want to put on a show. Six years, $6 million and one pandemic later, that is precisely what has happened.

In the last few months, the Hollywood Legion Theater has hosted, among other glam events, the TCM movie festival, the Noir City Hollywood Festival, the L.A. premiere of "Halloween Ends" (complete with an appearance by Jamie Lee Curtis); a screening of "Elvis" (ditto with Austin Butler), and the premieres of Tim Burton's Netflix hit "Wednesday" and "1923," a prequel to Taylor Sheridan's hugely popular "Yellowstone," starring Harrison Ford and Helen Mirren.

Harrison Ford and Helen Mirren! At the Hollywood Legion!

"We started out with roots in the entertainment business," said current post Commander Jeff Daly, "and now we are returning to them."

Post 43 was established in 1919 by World War I vets working in the nascent movie business and their supporters (including one of Hollywood's own founders, Mary Pickford). Billed on its website as "the longest continuously operating speakeasy in Hollywood," its original purpose was to provide a place for veterans and to raise money for various charitable ventures that support them.

In 1921, Post 43 bought land on El Centro Boulevard and built the Hollywood Legion Boxing Stadium, a wildly popular venue frequented by big stars of the day, including Charlie Chaplin and Bela Lugosi; profits from those fights funded the Highland headquarters, which was built in 1929.

Mickey Rooney, Clark Gable, Gene Autry, Ronald Reagan and Stan Lee were just a few of its more luminous members: Marilyn Monroe was an honorary colonel, as were Ginger Rogers, Jayne Mansfield, Lana Turner — all women who entertained troops or contributed to various war efforts.

Over the years, however, the Legion faded from the Hollywood landscape. As the city grew around it, it found itself wedged between a senior home and a Best Western. Its membership dipped to 400.

If you've lived in Los Angeles for any amount of time, you know Post 43, even if you think you don't. Built in 1929, it's the Egyptian Revival-style building a block or so south of the Hollywood Bowl. The one with the Japanese cannon in front; the one with all the flags.

Many people know it best as a good place to park while attending the Bowl. A certain demographic may remember wandering its halls as part of "Tamara," the long-running theatrical experience that ran there in the mid-'80s; I will never forget covering the event held there by Tolkien fans the night "The Return of the King" swept the Oscars.

For the post's members — veterans and their families — it is, as its website claims, the coolest clubhouse in town, with, among other things, a poker room, billiard room and two bars.

The smaller bar is an Art-Deco beauty with more than a hundred visible notches left there, as the legend goes, by Humphrey Bogart (one for every drink). The other stands impressively along one wall in an event space; rumor (and IMDb) has it that it was used in pick-up shots for "The Shining."

It was definitely the location of a barroom brawl in "Star Trek." In fact you have probably seen bits of the Hollywood Legion in many films and television shows: Until the Legion Theater opened, location fees were Post 43's primary source of revenue.

There is also, apparently, a ghost. When my daughter took a part-time job at the theater last summer, she was told to watch out for the spirit of a man killed long ago in a poker game. (She hasn't seen him.)

The building always had an auditorium at its heart, designed for meetings, events, performances and yes, movies. It was that space Rivero had turned into a 482-very-comfortable-seat theater outfitted for 35mm and 70mm as well as digital projects and kitted out with Alcons sound.

And that has made all the difference. Post 43's membership has grown to 1,300. And each successful event begets another.

"It is such a unique space, in terms of space and size and the things you can do there," said Genevieve McGillicuddy, vice president of enterprise for Turner Classic Movies (TCM). "But we were really excited about the formats, that we are able to show 35- and 70-millimeter films. Most standard theaters don't show actual film any more."

IT'S 'JUST SO COOL'

"We did a walk-through on three places," says Kate Mazzuca, whose company Bespoke Bohéme created the "Poker Face" event. "But I knew right away we were going with the Legion. When you have Rian Johnson doing his first series, you need all the top-of-the-line tech — the sound, the projection — to make cinema geeks happy. And," she adds, "the space is just so cool."

The theater lies at the back of the building. Visitors enter via a rotunda with a three-story ceiling and an air of grandeur; on one side is a comfortable community space known as the Trophy Room; the bars and community spaces are downstairs. All are accented by pictures, posters and various memorabilia honoring Post 43 veterans and the Legion's Hollywood history. Even the muted light feels historic.

"People walk in expecting a pull-down screen and folding chairs," says Taylor Umphenour, the theater's creative director and chief projectionist. "Then they see this." He motions to the tantalizing silence of empty red seats beneath a cathedral-like ceiling that somehow does not echo.

And by "somehow," I mean it has been expertly and expensively designed to conduct cinematic sound perfectly.

Before the renovation, Umphenour says, the theater's acoustics made it perfect for classical music concerts. "Columbia Records recorded a lot of soundtracks for Disney here, including most of 'Fantasia,' " he says. "Which is great for concerts, not so great for film."

The acoustics represented, he says, the biggest challenge of the renovation, but not the only one.

When Commander Rivero decided that a revitalized movie theater might help put the Hollywood Legion back on the Hollywood map, he hired Bill Steele, a Navy veteran, to oversee the project. Steele was working with the Navy's Hollywood liaison office but living in Lawrence, Kan., with dreams of building an art-house cinema. "Fernando was looking for a veteran who loved movies and that was me," Steele said over a Zoom from Lawrence. "As soon as I walked into the place I knew it was a project I would have to take on, to create a world-class theater.

"Because of my love of the physical nature of theatrical films," he adds, "it felt like my patriotic duty."

Steele says he could write a book about the drama involved in building a modern theater in the middle of a 90-year-old American Legion post with historic building status. "Some of the members didn't really understand what we were doing," Steele says. "The project was very expensive."

As with most remodeling projects, it became more expensive once it got started. "We realized as we worked on the theater that other parts of the building needed some help," Steele said. In the end, the whole renovation came to about $6 million.

Umphenour, who got his start at Imax and has worked with top filmmakers, joined the theater staff at what Steele calls the project's "lowest point." The projectionist who hired Umphenour, a consultant through much of the process, quit hours before his new employee was set to arrive.

"I get this text that he's left because things had gotten so crazy and I thought, 'Well, I'm already in the car so I might as well check the place out.' "

Like Steele, he took one look and knew he wanted to be part of it.

"We can do anything in this theater," Umphenour says. "Show almost any movie ever made. It's amazing."

In 2019, the Legion Theater got its first big booking as part of the TCM film festival, which included a 70mm screening of "The Sound of Music." "People from Fox said it was the best presentation of the film they'd ever seen," Umphenour says.

TCM uses several nearby theaters for its festival, and only the Legion has 70mm capability. "We do about 10 to 12 screenings there each year," McGillicuddy said. "And use it to present our Robert Osborne Award. We really appreciate that the bar — you couldn't ask for a better bar for TCM participants."

The theater, which hosts regular screenings for Post 43 members and the general public, quickly became a presence on the film festival circuit and the burgeoning business of TV premieres. Los Angeles is littered with venues for premieres or parties, but few that have the capacity to do both. In a historic building. With enough room for a red carpet and plenty of nearby parking.

Oh, and a drive-in theater.

When the COVID-19 pandemic hit, the Hollywood Legion, like every other theater, shut down.

So Umphenour looked where so many other pandemic-afflicted businesses did — to the parking lot. Hollywood Bowl parking is a big source of revenue for the post, but it quickly became clear that the Bowl would not have a 2020 season. So Umphenour and his staff decided to turn its 68 parking spots into a drive-in. "The only drive-in in Hollywood," he said.

The indoor theater reopened in 2021, but the drive-in remains operational for at least another year. 'Permanent' is a tricky word," Umphenour said. "We'll see."

The outdoor screen is yet another selling point for studios, festivals and exhibitors. The premiere for the first season of "Yellowjackets" in 2021 was an outdoor event, and at the "Poker Face" premiere, the screen, beaming with the show's title, was a perfect background for the red (well, gray) carpet — the first step in what Peacock, and Bespoke Bohéme, hoped would be a full-immersion experience.

MORE TV PREMIERES

Having a full-scale premiere for a television series is a relatively new thing, even in party-obsessed Los Angeles; for years only HBO regularly hosted blowout bashes for its shows. But when Netflix, Amazon and other streamers joined the race for eyeballs and Emmys, small-screen premieres grew in number and lavishness. Color-themed flowers and an open bar would no longer suffice; parties have been replaced by immersive events, which means dressing spaces in a way to make revelers feel they are inside the world of the show that's premiering.

The Hollywood Legion Theater suits this new immersive aesthetic nicely.

For "Wednesday," in which Wednesday Addams wreaks havoc at Nevermore Academy, the Hollywood Legion got the full goth-school treatment. "Poker Face" follows Charlie (Natasha Lyonne), whose ability to detect any lie forces her to take to the road, solving mysteries as she goes. It is, among other things, an homage to 1970s and '80s murder-of-the-week series like "Columbo," "McCloud," "The Rockford Files" and "Murder, She Wrote," which matched with the Legion's age and welter of styles.

"The show has a patina to it," Mazzuca said. "A lot of character. And so does the Legion. We were able to create a roadside bar at one end and a honky-tonk at the other. From the carpet outside to every room inside, it all felt very much like the show.

"It's also," she adds, "just a great place to throw a party."

Turning what was originally a private club into an event space hasn't been easy either.

"I thought building the theater would be the hardest part," said Steele. "Turns out programming is the hardest part."

The theater has been so successful that it is now the biggest source of revenue for Post 43 — so big that the post, which is tax-exempt, is discussing whether or not to spin it off into a subsidiary business for the post.

"It would be a wholly owned subsidary," said Daly, "but if we can stop worrying about how much money we make, it will be very freeing."

Daly, who is Post 43's first Black commander in its hundred-year history, took the position last spring. He joined in 2017, having discovered the post through the entertainment industry. "I took a comedy writing class there through the Veterans and Media program — we help veterans enter the industry. Before that," he adds, "I didn't know it existed. When I drove by the building I thought it was a post office. And I wondered, 'Why do they have a cannon in front of a post office?' "

Now he says, he is determined to get every Marine veteran in Hollywood to join.

"I went to 'The Price Is Right' in hopes of being called up on stage so I could ask Drew Carey to join. But it didn't happen. And I'm always hoping to bump into Adam Driver, but he lives in New York."

His larger mission, he says, is to help ensure that the organization survives another hundred years, and he too believes the Hollywood Legion Theater is key.

There are still members who are angry about the multimillion-dollar renovation, he says, but many are excited about being part of Hollywood again. "It's a centerpiece, it attracts attention and funds. We have one of the youngest memberships in the country and many of them do work in the industry so they understand that."

Still, organizing a schedule that includes members-only, public and private events can get ... complicated. "The building is big enough, with enough separate spaces that we can do more than one thing at a time." But Thursday and Friday are "bar nights" for members, so best kept private. "And I would never, ever allow anything to be scheduled on Veterans Day."

Now that the Bowl is back on its pre-pandemic schedule, summer evenings are pretty much out as well. "No one wants to deal with Bowl traffic," Daly said.

But last spring, Umphenour had a program-adjacent brainwave. On the day Haim played at the Bowl, the Legion Theater screened "Licorice Pizza," in which the sisters appeared, and invited their parents to host.

"I think we could do more programming like that," Umphenour said. "When there's a John Williams concert, we could screen 'Raiders of the Lost Ark' or 'Star Wars.' Make it a day-long experience for fans."

Park your car early, catch a movie and then go to the Bowl? That's Hollywood synergy.